

AFTER THE MASSACRE

TRAGEDY THAT SHOOK THE WORLD
PAGE 4

HOW TEACHERS BROKE THE NEWS
PAGE 5

MATTHEW PARRIS
The Commons became a place of mourning
PAGE 2

GUN LAW REFORM
Pressure for new licensing rules, P2
Leading article, P19

'Our school was visited by evil'

Public inquiry will focus on how killer obtained guns

By Philip Webster, Nicholas Wood and Gillian Bowditch

A PUBLIC inquiry into the tragedy at Dunblane Primary School on Wednesday will review the adequacy of gun controls and whether the authorities fell down in their dealings with the killer Thomas Hamilton, ministers announced yesterday.

The investigation will focus on whether Hamilton should have been granted firearms certificates, whether the various agencies involved, including police and politicians, cross-checked the information they held about him and whether they should have taken action.

Meanwhile in Dunblane the devastated city was trying to come to terms with the wanton murder of 16 children and their teacher at their primary school. The headmaster, Ron Taylor, said simply: "Evil visited us yesterday and we don't know why."

The public inquiry, to be led by the senior Scottish judge Lord Cullen, will cover the information disclosed by the Scottish Office yesterday that Hamilton bought the guns used in his murderous attack only last year and had owned three other guns over the past 20 years. Hamilton was issued with a firearms certificate last year authorising him to possess a 9mm pistol and a 0.357in revolver. The certificate also allowed him to buy two more handguns of the same types. They are believed to be the four guns carried by



Beverley and Steven Birnie, after visiting their son Matthew, one of the victims, who is in intensive care at Stirling Royal Infirmary

the unemployed loner when he burst into the school. It also appears that at some point Hamilton was given a permit for a 7.62mm rifle.

Senior politicians who have had personal contacts with Hamilton spoke yesterday of the dilemma they and the police had faced in handling a man who had provoked suspicion but had provided no ground for prosecution.

Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, said last night: "The police gave their views privately to me on him, but the difficulty was that there was no evidence to ensure a prosecution."

George Robertson, his Labour shadow, said: "Those of us who met and distrusted Thomas Hamilton — and I argued with him in my own home — in truth could have had no inkling to guide us to his final act of wantonness."

The inquiry will also cover the security of schools. Its scope effectively will be unrestrained because ministers are determined that the lessons of a calamity that has shaken the country and the world must be learnt.

At Dunblane, the devastated primary school became the focus for a community's grief yesterday. A steady stream of tearful parents and children placed flowers, teddybears, candles and soft toys at the school gates.

Sixteen single red roses, bearing the message "May

you play for ever", were tied with ribbon to the railings. Another tribute read: "To my darling little sister Victoria, I will always love you, from big brother Ross."

Tributes continued to pour in for the dead and injured teachers yesterday. Tony Harild, the husband of Eileen Harild, one of the teachers injured in the attack, said his wife would be in hospital for some time to come. "Her arm is pretty badly shattered," he said. "She is drifting in and out of consciousness."

"Eileen is the gym teacher and she was taking the class at the time. The class teacher sits

in and helps and there was also another assistant, Mrs Blake. All three women were in the gym when the gunman burst in."

Teachers will meet at the school today to offer each other support and to decide how best to comfort the grieving children. Members of the school board and the school chaplain will also attend. The school is unlikely to reopen until the middle of next week.

Mike Ransom, director of social work services for the area, said: "Twenty-five social work staff and six educational psychologists attended the school to assist the police [on

Wednesday] when parents were coming to the school to collect children or to discover that their children had been killed or injured."

At Westminster, the inquiry was announced in the House of Commons on a day when politicians of all parties united in grief and horror at the slaughter and put aside any thoughts of political conflict. John Major and Tony Blair are to visit the stricken community today to speak to the families of the victims and to visit the injured at Stirling Royal Infirmary.

Mr Major told a hushed chamber that the shootings

Head tells of horror he faced in the gym

By Stephen Farrell

THE headmaster of Dunblane Primary School yesterday relived his horror at the sight that confronted him in his school's gymnasium after Thomas Hamilton's killing spree.

Ron Taylor, 45, said: "Evil visited us yesterday and we don't know why. And we don't understand it and I guess we never will. The scene that materialised in the hall, in the gym, was just utterly appalling and everyone's worst nightmare. I can't get it out of my head."

Mr Taylor, nervously sipping water, sat at a table with moist eyes as he recalled the aftermath of the murder.

"I feel total devastation, total helplessness. We did what we could but it was so little. The emergency services were so magnificent and the staff were absolutely magnificent. Some of the staff who weren't on the front line and who weren't aware of the full extent of what had happened were immensely helpful with the parents."

He refused to talk about the incident itself, pointing out that it was the subject of a police investigation and fatal accident inquiry.

And he denied that he was a hero. "We did what we could, we tried to stem the blood. We tried to get the children out quickly."

"I still feel very deeply shocked and I'm still very, very distressed about the appalling incident. My thoughts and the thoughts of all my staff are obviously with the families."

The children, he said, had been left traumatised and

Resentment grows at unanswered questions

By Magnus Linklater

AFTER the shock, the grief, and after the grief, the anger. All yesterday, as the streets of Dunblane overflowed with the paraphernalia of the world's media, the emotions of its people began to crystallise. What had been a numbing sense of disbelief turned instead to insistent questions: why had nothing been done about a man as disturbed as Thomas Hamilton? Why was he allowed to carry weapons? How had he been able to walk unchallenged into a primary school and vent his unfathomable revenge on a class of innocent five year olds?

By the end of the day, the questions remained unanswered, and the resentment had hardened. A small group of relatives, handing in flowers at the school gates, asked why they were being told



Flowers outside Dunblane Primary School yesterday

nothing beyond facts they had all read in that morning's newspapers. "How did he get those guns?" asked one. "What did those children do to deserve it?" — a harder question to answer.

And the one to which there was no response at all, written on a card attached to a bunch of carnations: "Why?"

Police and social services, retreating behind the convenient barrier of a fatal accident inquiry (the Scottish equivalent of a coroner's report) and a further judicial inquiry ordered by the Government, were giving little away. Everything, they said, must wait until the authorities had had time to conduct a proper report.

Meanwhile, and the word became a kind of mantra during the day, it would be "inappropriate" to comment further. There is, however, nothing sacrosanct about an inquiry when there is no doubt about the guilty party. Openness — however alien the

concept to British officialdom — would have been a more humane response to the tragedy than terse defensiveness.

It was left to the people themselves, their church, and, surprisingly, the media, to fill the gap. The abiding impression throughout the day was of mourning, decently, movingly displayed. Flowers left at the scene of a disaster are by now a familiar tradition. The nylon teddy bears lying among them have become a cliché. But the messages they carry, however banal, never cease to touch one. They ranged from the sparse — "We wept as if for our own" — to the simple — "Try not to despair."

Some were elaborate. A closely woven set of chrysanthemums spelling the word "Angels". Some were more imaginative — 17 single red roses, each bearing the words, "May you play for ever".

There was one from "a family in south London".

Letters complain of pervert slur

By Stephen Farrell and Ian Murray

THE day before he carried out his massacre at Dunblane, Thomas Hamilton posted the BBC copies of seven letters he had written — including one to the Queen — complaining that he had wrongly been branded as a sexual pervert by the Scout Association.

The dossier of articulate but increasingly obsessive letters opens in June 1993, with one to parents of his youth clubs. It finishes with the one to Buckingham Palace, written on Thursday of last week.

The letter to the Queen claims that the Scout campaign against him was led by Robert Deuchers, a district commissioner, who has lived for years in the flat above his home in Stirling.

Mr Deuchers's wife said last night: "It was my husband who was complaining about, but I don't want to say anything further."

The letters, disclosed as a fatal accident inquiry got under way, reveal how isolated Hamilton had become since 1984, when Eric Gillett, then the Scottish local government ombudsman, found more than 100 parents backed Hamilton after the local council terminated its agreement to let him use school premises for his independent youth group. The ombudsman had dismissed allegations about his character then as "gossip".

With the ombudsman's report clearing his name, Hamilton continued to run unofficial youth clubs for years despite parents' increasing unease, neighbours' contempt and police investigations into his behaviour on semi-naked boys on boating trips to Loch Lomond.

As the investigations continued he developed a grudge for the community which he felt had shunned him for his interest in boys.

In his letter to the Queen he wrote that 20 years of innuendos by a senior scoutmaster that he was a pervert had ruined his business and left him too embarrassed to walk down the street.

The dossier includes two letters to Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, complaining about "purely malicious innuendos which resulted in a full-scale pervert hunt".

In a letter last January to Robert Ball, education convener for the Central Regional Council, Hamilton claimed the defamation against him was "coming from the respected source of local primary school staff".

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TV & RADIO	42, 43	LETTERS	19	ARTS	32-34	SPORT	38-42, 44
WEATHER	22	OBITUARIES	21	CHESS & BRIDGE	39	EDUCATION	37
CROSSWORDS	22, 44	BERNARD LEVIN	18	COURT & SOCIAL	20	LAW REPORT	38

Pressure grows for 'sanity certificate' as fresh details emerge of killer's love of weapons

Home Office is urged to close 'lunatics' loophole in the law

GUN LEGISLATION

BY RICHARD FORD
AND STEWART TENDLER

DOCTORS should be given a central role in deciding whether a person is fit to be issued with a firearms licence, the Government was told yesterday.

Dr Peter Brand, a former member of the British Medical Association's general council, urged the Home Office to close the "lunatics' loophole" in the law and make it a statutory requirement for any application for a licence to be supported by medical approval.

Under the present law applicants merely have to tick a box on a form to state whether he has, or has had, any mental disorder. Dr Brand said: "The form asks if the applicant is in fact mentally stable to have a gun, but leaves it to the applicant to say so. Almost anybody can endorse the applicant, unaware of the state of the person's mind. Somebody

can obtain a gun while mentally unstable — and known to their GP as mentally unstable — and the doctor cannot do a thing about it. It's crazy."

Dr Brand said that the Government had failed to heed previous warnings. "If it had the appalling tragedy of Dunblane may have been prevented, as well as many other gun-related incidents and suicides."

His view is supported by John Stalker, a former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester. Mr Stalker urged the Government to examine whether GPs and psychologists should be involved before the police grant firearms certificates.

As Home Office officials began to review the firearms law yesterday, chief constables renewed pressure for an amnesty. The one held after the Hungerford massacre brought in 45,000 weapons.

The amnesty is supported by the Firearms Consultative Committee, a body that advises the Government, which met yesterday in private at the Home Office. Four years ago the committee urged ministers to look at the possession of weapons by the mentally ill.

However, any move to involve doctors in the issuing of a "sanity certificate" will be resisted by the British Medical Association. A spokesman said that psychiatrists rather than GPs made judgments on a person's mental state and doctors would be concerned that they would be held responsible if a person went out and killed someone after being given a certificate.

Nonetheless the government is under pressure to reform gun laws so that much greater emphasis is placed on the character of the person applying for a certificate. Under the present law an applicant has to fill in a four-page document, obtained from the police, giving details of his or her background. Anyone who has served a jail sentence of more than three years is permanently banned from holding a certificate.

The application form must be countersigned by a person of standing such as a bank manager, doctor, magistrate or company director. That person must vouch for the character, conduct and mental condition of the applicant.

According to the guidance issued by the Home Office, police must judge whether the applicant would be a danger to the public. Officers can refuse or revoke a certificate if the owner has intemperate habits, is of unsound mind or for any other reason is unfit to be trusted with a gun.



Thomas Hamilton relaxing during an adventure holiday for boys he organised at Loch Lomond last year

'Out of the whole family I think he was the most normal one'

BY STEVE FARRELL
AND IAN MURRAY

EVIDENCE emerged yesterday of Thomas Hamilton's obsessive behaviour and peculiar family life. The owner of a photographic shop said Hamilton often brought in films to be developed which proved to be pictures of boys in swimming trunks, but was careful never to cross the line of indecency. A newsagent told how he came in each month to buy pornographic magazines, hiding them inside a newspaper before leaving the shop.

Throughout the period he ran the boys' clubs he was buying guns. Robert Bell, owner of Crookart and Sons gun shop in Stirling, said yesterday Hamilton had been a customer for more than 20 years. He said Hamilton held a firearms certificate and had legally bought guns and ammunition there, but refused to say if he purchased handguns or what he sold him when he last visited his shop a month ago. "At no time was there

anything at all strange about his manner. He seemed a perfectly normal individual," he said. "His technical knowledge was considerable and showed he had a great affinity with guns."

Although the Ombudsman failed to find any incriminating evidence of malpractice in the running of youth clubs in 1984, eight years later Hamilton was banned from using school premises in the neighbouring Fife region after council received complaints about lack of adequate supervision at boys' groups he ran there after 1986. The Fife council spokeswoman said yesterday: "We investigated the complaints and were unable to substantiate anything. But we decided to err on the side of safety and not let premises to Mr Hamilton again."

In the early 1980s, Hamilton was given considerable local support among parents for the way he ran clubs for boys aged

9-13. When the Central Regional Council terminated his let of school premises for his groups in 1983, 70 people signed a petition backing him and 30 wrote letters of protest to the education department.

After a six-month investigation, the Ombudsman found in his favour. The report, published in November 1984, paints a picture of a man with a genuine grievance. Finding the decision to terminate the let was "ill-founded and unfair," the report said the council was wrong because it gave more weight to "complaints which proved little better than gossip."

Hamilton obtained the support of eight headteachers a year earlier when he set up a new branch of his youth group. They allowed him to circulate a note inviting boys to enjoy football, gymnastics, swimming, boating, camping, hillwalking and shooting. In 1988 Hamilton was inter-

viewed by police after threatening a woman with a gun who had complained that his behaviour with young boys at summer camps was indecent. Doreen Hagger, 40, who was confronted by Hamilton, said last night: "The police let it drop. If they had done their job the massacre of Dunblane would never have happened."

Hamilton, who was illegitimate, grew up believing his mother was his sister and that his adoptive grandparents were his real parents. His grandparents adopted him when he was four and maintained the charade that he was their own son. The family was known locally as "weird".

Anthea Callaghan, 58, who lived in the same converted manse as the Hamilton family in the late 1960s, described the young Hamilton as a "good looking boy but a loner". She said: "I would see him cycling home from school. We would say hello and that was about it. Out of the whole family I would say he was the most normal one."

Grieving MPs united for the love of little children

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Descriptions of the scene in the Commons chamber yesterday depend remarkably on the viewer. Judgment must be subjective.

The objective facts are these: that almost the whole of Prime Minister's Questions and the ensuing statement and interventions were given over to the expression by MPs, not so much of opinion or inquiry, as of grief.

John Major was at first subdued, then almost unable to speak. Tony Blair's voice quivered and broke as he spoke. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, usually dry, sounded heartbroken. For Labour, George Robertson could hardly speak.

Many MPs came close to tears as they testified, as parents themselves, to the depth of their sympathy. For about an hour the Commons chamber became a place of public mourning. Nobody who witnessed this has the least doubt as to the sincerity of every Member. I have never seen the Commons more sincere.

The spectacle, however, affected different onlookers differently. Two utterly opposed views of the public display of grief exist in Britain. We should acknowledge each.

One — perhaps the more old-fashioned — is that grief should be private and that its display in public can border on bad taste. Many British people would not, if strangers to the deceased, wish to be seen crying at a funeral.

Unless we felt confident of being able to contain our grief on a public occasion, we would stay away or keep silent. We would not think anyone lacking in human feeling because he curbed his expression, nor assume that those whose sorrow is more public feel it more deeply.

Some who take that approach might have found something very faintly distasteful in the Commons scene, after Mr Forsyth's short statement. They would

call it un-British. They could see that weeping MPs were overcome by genuine emotion, but will have worried that as the mood swept the chamber, MPs were unwittingly working each other up to greater public grief.

Responding to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair was so visibly affected as to start a sympathetic reaction in John Major who, responding to his response, found his own throat blocking up too.

Other MPs spoke of the loss of their own children: Ian Paisley (DUP, Antrim North) spoke of deaths in Northern Ireland and quoted scripture; Nicholas Winter (C, Macleodfield) asked whether it was not wonderful that the House should be united through the love of little children; some called for a minute's silence.

The scene, though palpably sincere, did approach those meetings of the "charismatic" type, where people offer public witness of their feelings. Some will not have felt easy with this. Some were saying so yesterday.

But there is another attitude to the display of grief, no less British for being more modern: that it is more honest to show what we feel, and there is nothing wrong with affecting each other by a genuine display of those feelings, perhaps touching off similar feelings.

Those who take that view will point out that such demonstrations can be very comforting to the bereaved; that when people have suffered an insupportable loss, they need others not just to state, but to show, their own sorrow. It helps them to bear the loss, even when it comes from strangers — perhaps particularly from strangers.

Such people will say that the MPs' response showed the House of Commons at its best, and kindest. Some were saying so yesterday.

Murder weapons popular in clubs

THE Browning and Beretta guns Thomas Hamilton is thought to have used are popular weapons in many gun clubs and would cost a few hundred pounds each, secondhand.

The Browning Hi-Power pistol is recommended by shooting clubs as a good standard weapon. The 9mm semi-automatic handgun holds a magazine of 13 rounds which slot into the butt.

The Beretta semi-automatic pistol was yesterday described by experts as reliable and accurate.

Gun enthusiasts are able to purchase an arsenal of weapons through specialist magazines. They can be bought by mail order or with credit cards by any of the estimated 900,000 people who already own legally-held weapons.

Gun dealers contacted by The Times offered a Russian Tokarev 7.62 calibre pistol for £99; a Beretta similar to Hamilton's for up to £585; and a Browning pistol for up to £364. The semi-automatic pistol used by many police forces, the Austrian-made Glock, can be bought for £460.

As questions remain unanswered so resentment grows

Continued from page 1

another from "The people of West Hull". They came from all over the world. Those delivering them found themselves facing the media. Surrounded by reporters and cameramen, most responded calmly, trying to describe their emotions, explaining how they had heard the news, talking of "how we're going to cope".

With worldwide news teams joining the British media, there was an insatiable appetite for comment, for quotes of any kind, for information, however indirect. But I heard few complaints. "It's a job they have to do," said one, father with his young daughter, emerging from the

scrum. "At least they tell us something," said a young mother.

But comfort of a deeper kind is what this community seeks, and it is to the church they have begun to turn. The cathedral, almost deserted on the day of the shooting, was visited constantly yesterday. Small groups of people sat beneath the great barrel roof and Bishop Clement's 13th-century Norman arches, some to meditate, others to cluster together, talking quietly.

When one particularly distressed woman sat alone, she was joined by a sympathetic couple from the row behind. Counselling, to use the modern jargon? No, just instinctive

sympathy. This evening, a full service of prayer and meditation takes place.

Canon Kenyon Wright, former secretary of the Scottish Churches Council, worked for many years in Dunblane, and has held services often at the primary school. He had turned to the Bible the previous evening and it had fallen open at Matthew 11 with its Jeremiah prophecy: "A sound is heard in Ramah/the sound of bitter crying and weeping/Rachel weeps for her children/she weeps and will not be comforted/Because they are no more."

"I mentally substituted Dunblane

for Ramah," he said, "and asked the same question: Why me? Why us? People are grieving, not just for the loss of the children, but the loss of innocence, of trust and laughter. Their anger is confused, some even feel guilty that they have survived. For the time being the darkness has overcome the light, but it must be the church's role to restore vision, may be not on the basis of one single religion, but one to which everyone has access."

The Rev Maxwell Craig, general secretary of Action of Churches Together in Scotland, the ecumenical movement based opposite the cathedral, has spent much of his

time offering comfort to the bereaved. "I do believe this is a strong community," he said. "And they have been greatly comforted by the messages of support that have come in from all over the world. The church's role at this time is to be seen, to be visible, to be identifiable."

Outside, the media was still on patrol, cameras and microphones an intrusion into the city's grief. And yet, in some ways it was a necessary part, a reminder that this is a tragedy shared not just by the 9,000 inhabitants of this place, but by Scotland, and the world beyond. A wider community, perhaps, than most people had realised.

Head's horror

Continued from page 1

distressed. But staff had realised immediately what happened. "One grasped it instantly. The guy was there. We will recover. There's a strong team spirit in the staff."

Counselling would be made available to children and staff, but the community would recover, he said with determination in his soft Scottish voice while speaking to a handful of reporters.

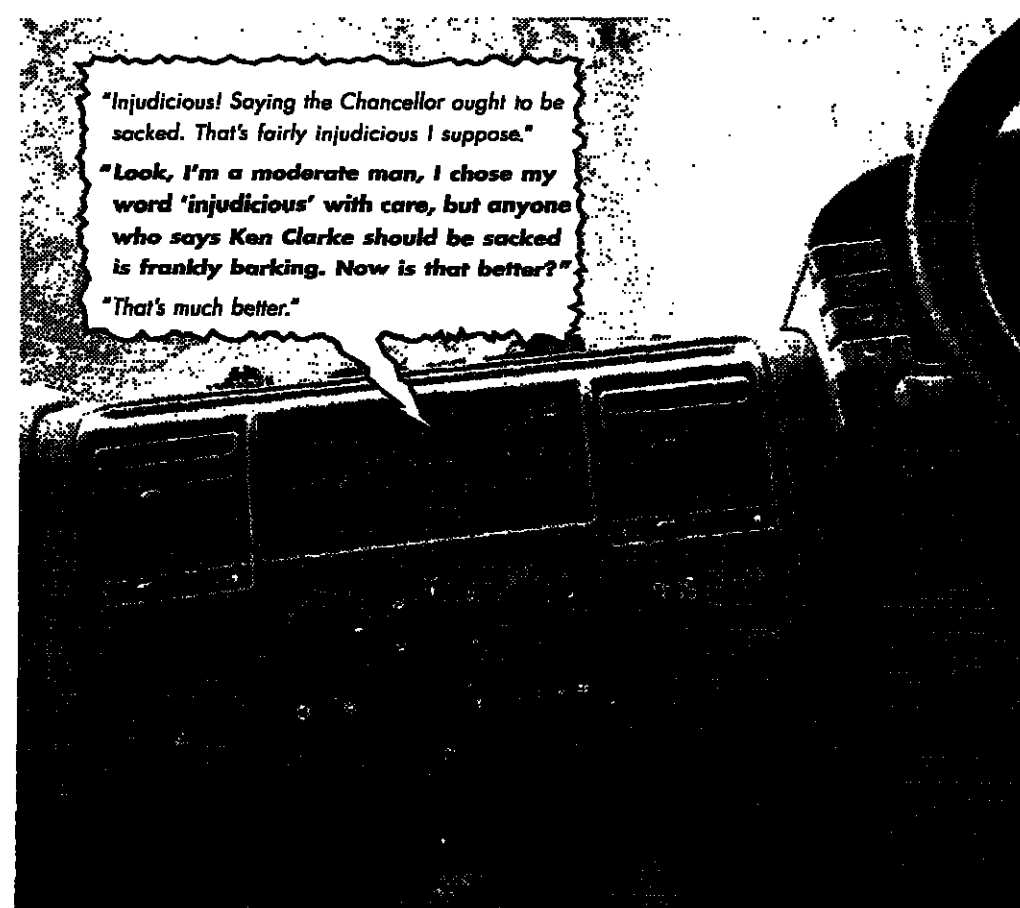
"The strength comes from the children. The children in Dunblane are superb. They are wonderful to work with.

We can rebuild. We all did the best we could together. I got my strength from the staff. We got our strengths from each other."

"We talked together as often as possible and comforted one another in these appalling circumstances."

And of Gwennie Mayor, the teacher who died alongside her children, he said: "Gwennie was a highly responsible, very experienced, lovely lady. The kids loved her. We've lost a super colleague."

Mr Taylor hopes to return to the school today.



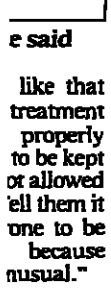
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'Spring will not come to our city'

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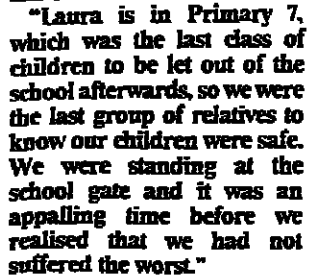


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were: Victoria Clydesdale, Emma Crozier, Melissa Currie, Ross Irvine, David Kerr, Mhairi McBeath, Abigail McLennan, Sophie North and Hannah Scott. They were all aged five.



From Paris to New York, news of the tragedy sends shockwaves around the globe

World's press echoes Britain's sense of horror

BY QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE massacre at Dunblane transfixed the world. In America, it was the lead item on television newscasts and filled newspapers across the continent. The main question was: how could this happen in a country whose gun laws are so much stricter than those in the United States?

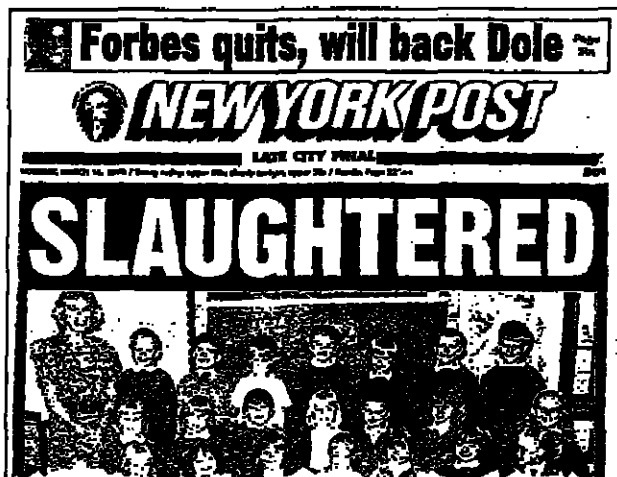
The New York Post devoted five pages to the shootings and, like the Daily News, its front page carried the school photograph that showed the murdered teacher, Gwenne Mayor, and her doomed charges. Images of distraught parents and a solitary, mourning policeman displaced rival stories in The Philadelphia Inquirer, the Boston Herald and The Globe & Mail, Toronto. Even the New York Times, normally impervious to sympathy for Britain, saw fit to give the tragedy a run, albeit with less conviction.

CNN, the 24-hour television news channel based in Atlanta, despatched one of its Gulf War veterans, the reporter Arthur Kent, to Dunblane. The major television networks reacted swiftly to the killings and gave them higher priority than any domestic story. President Clinton's peace conference trip to Egypt was relegated to a secondary spot. In addition to their own contributions, networks ran ITN's reports in full and when studio presenters moved on to subsequent items it was with none of their usual levity.

Customers in a Manhattan sandwich bar discussed the shootings, shaking their heads in disbelief as they dwelt on Dunblane over lunch. One man, hearing my British accent, offered his condolences. "What a terrible thing to happen," he said. Others noted the proximity to Lockerbie. "Poor Scotland," they said.

In Kearney, New Jersey, a large community of Scottish-Americans could barely credit that such bloodshed had occurred in the land of their descent. "It will be on our minds for a long, long time,"

FOREIGN REACTION



News of the massacre of 16 children in Dunblane captured front pages on both sides of the Atlantic



said David Munro, 54, a mason who emigrated from Paisley. "All Scots feel bad about it." At the town's Scottish-American club, the normal hum of bar talk was silenced.

Canada, a country with one of the highest concentrations of people of Scottish origin, expressed shock and horror at the tragedy. It made frontpage banner headlines in all the major newspapers and was the topic of conversation on radio phone-in shows. Canada recently passed tough gun laws designed to prevent them from falling into the hands of dangerous or unstable people. Many who support Canada's

gun control laws cited the Scottish tragedy as evidence of the need for tougher measures around the world.

The massacre dominated Italian news bulletins and newspaper front pages, eclipsing the election campaign and other domestic concerns. Italians are used to street crime and Mafia killings but have a particular horror of violence towards children. "Death at School" was the headline in the Corriere della Sera, which commented that "the massacre of the innocents is one of the recurring nightmares of humanity". It said the culture of childhood in Italy and the strength of the

family as an institution helped to protect children. But no precautions could protect them against a maniac.

The Israeli press did not give the massacre the same prominence as similar tragedies in its own country, such as the recent suicide bombings. The popular tabloid, Yediot Aharonot, published only a "write-off" on its front page, referring readers to an article on page 23.

The English-language newspaper The Jerusalem Post published a report in full on its front page, with the headline "Gunner kills 16 children in Scotland". But it was not the main story, being placed at the bottom. All the Israeli newspapers yesterday led with articles about the anti-terrorism summit.

In Dublin, the Irish parliament observed a minute's silence yesterday for the victims. Dick Spring, the Foreign Minister, said the events in Dunblane were "beyond description" and he expressed the sympathy of the Government and people of Ireland to the families of those affected.

In a message to John Major, President Mandela said: "On behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of South Africa, I would like to express sympathy and dismay at the heartbreaking tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and teacher who met such an untimely death."

Australians, with a sizeable Scottish ancestry, mourned the dead as they woke to headlines of "Massacre" and "Slaughter of innocents" over full-page pictures of the smiling class that has dominated British newspapers.

In a message of sympathy carried on television, John Howard, the Prime Minister, said he could not understand the scope of the tragedy. Shaking his head he said: "Like all Australia I was disturbed to learn of the devastating and senseless murder of so many children."

In France, flags in Villeneuve d'Ascq, the town of 42,000 inhabitants near Lille that is twinned with Dunblane, flew at half mast in



In Dunblane's twin town of Villeneuve d'Ascq, the council lowered flags to half mast

sympathy. "We stand by our sister town in its grief," M Gérard Caudron, the mayor, said.

For many French people, Wednesday's events brought back frightening memories of the attack by Eric Schmitt, known as The Human Bomb, who laid siege to a primary school in Neuilly-sur-Seine, a

Paris suburb, in May 1993. Schmitt, who had explosives strapped to his body, held a class of children and their teacher hostage for 48 hours before he was shot by police.

Alain Lamassoure, a French government spokesman, said that President Chirac had expressed his condolences to Britain. "The president said

his Government expressed its sympathy to the British people, who were cruelly bereaved by this tragedy."

President Havel of the Czech Republic said in a message to the Queen and Mr Major: "News of the tragedy at the school in Dunblane profoundly upset me as well as my fellow citizens."

PTA and board open fund for pupils

APPEAL

DUNBLANE primary's school board and the parent teacher association have set up a fund to help pupils. It was announced after the two groups met yesterday.

A joint account has been opened in the Bank of Scotland in the city and the fund will aim to channel money into the school, to benefit the children. There are no plans to give money directly to the victims' families.

The school board and PTA also disclosed that they would be advising the local education authority that the reopening of the school, which had been planned for Monday, should be delayed. Gerry McDermott, a member of the board, said in a joint statement that it was felt that the school should be reopened "as soon as is practicable after the funerals in order to give the authority the opportunity to redecorate the whole school".

Mike Robbins, chairman of the school board, said: "We felt this was the best way to give a fresh start to all the children moving back into the school. Obviously, it may be costly but is a small price to pay for peace of mind." The suggestions were to be put to the education authority.

The organisations hope a memorial service will take place in a few weeks. They also want a permanent memorial to be built at the school. They want a quiet area and, separately, an area for children to enjoy.

No name has yet been given to the fund's account, but those wanting to make donations to the joint appeal can make them to the PTA School Board Fund and send them either to the school or to the bank, the address of which is: Bank of Scotland, 63 High Street, Dunblane, Central, FK15 0EJ.

The BBC has withdrawn the film *Cape Fear*, about a psychopathic murderer, from its scheduled slot on March 29, in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy, as a mark of respect for the city's people.

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The head could not explain to his pupils. One asked: 'What did the children do wrong?'

Nation's teachers struggle to find the right words

By DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PRIMARY teachers across Britain struggled to find the words yesterday to explain the Dunblane massacre to inquisitive small children.

Many turned to prayers and the Bible in an attempt to explain the carnage. The most difficult question one head teacher faced was from a pupil who asked: "What did the children do wrong?"

At many schools, pupils searching for their own response have prepared cards and presents for the children of Dunblane. One, in the shape of a large poppy, has been signed by all the pupils at Sutton-on-the-Forest Primary School in North Yorkshire.

Sue Ratcliffe, the head teacher, said questions she had faced included: "Why was that man allowed a gun?" and "How did he get into the school?"

Mrs Ratcliffe told her seven to 11-year-olds that what they heard on the news was true. Lots of children in Scotland had died and they should be prayed for.

With her four to six-year-

SCHOOLS

olds the task was more difficult. "They cannot understand why it happened to little children, what they did to deserve it. We talked about sadness and how words can help you understand."

Mrs Ratcliffe added: "We had to talk about what it is like to lose your favourite toy. If they understand what sadness is they can understand how people in Dunblane must be feeling."

Other head teachers decided they should not discuss the tragedy immediately with the youngest children. Bob Jones, head of Norwood primary in Eastleigh, Hampshire, said he would address the issue today.

"We decided to wait because the whole school has an assembly and by that time some of the emotion may have died down."

"I will talk to the children about what we can do to help the school, although my initial reaction is that we cannot do anything except send our feelings of sadness."

A remembrance shrine was set up at St Augustine's

Roman Catholic School in Gantshill, east London, to help pupils to focus their thoughts. Lunchtime was designated a quiet time, when the children were encouraged to go to the school hall and eat in silence in front of the image of the Madonna and Child, surrounded by candles, and pray for the dead children.

At Alverstoke Infants School in Hampshire one of the pupils asked why the killer would want to do such a thing. Anne Cousins, the head teacher, said it was difficult to find the words to explain something she could not understand. She told them: "He was a madman, unhappy and not very well."

Mrs Cousins was also asked, by a younger child: "Could it happen here?" She said it could not.

Crosshall Junior School in Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire, was another of the many schools where a minute's silence was observed. All 430 children signed a card to send to Dunblane. Gary Yates, the head teacher, said: "The children seemed very subdued. There was not the usual animation there. I think it



Ron Taylor, headmaster of Dunblane primary, at a press conference yesterday: "Evil visited us yesterday and we don't know why," he said

struck home to them that these kinds of events can involve children their age."

Judy Stokes, a consultant clinical psychologist who runs a specialist counselling service for bereaved children in Gloucester, advised parents to talk through the feelings of

even the youngest child. She said: "You can stress that it is very unusual but you should find a way of letting the child express what he or she feels by asking questions. Ask them if they are thinking this could happen to them."

She added: "You will have to

try to explain why the killings happened in terms that a five-year-old can understand. Tell them that what happened was really terrible and very unusual and we don't know why. When people do things like this, they are ill - not physically ill but mentally ill. When

they are mentally ill, their thinking gets mixed up and they make a decision to do something that no one else would think is right.

"This man decided he had to go and kill children at school. He lost control and he didn't even know any of the children.

When people think like that they need medical treatment to help them think properly again and they need to be kept in a safe place and not allowed to walk the streets. Tell them it is normal for everyone to be sad and horrified because what happened is unusual."

Senior judge no stranger to tragedy

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD CULLEN, the Scottish High Court judge appointed to chair the inquiry into the Dunblane disaster, is no stranger to tragedy. He chaired the inquiry into the Piper Alpha oil platform catastrophe from 1988 to 1990, of which one Scottish lawyer said yesterday: "He was universally held to have done a splendid job."

Lord Cullen, 60, has been a judge in the Court of Session for the past ten years and is regarded as one of Scotland's best legal brains. He has just completed a wide-ranging report on

THE INQUIRY

how to tackle costs and delays in civil cases in the Court of Session (the High Court). Scotland's equivalent of the Lord Woolf inquiry into civil justice in England and Wales.

Kenneth Pritchard, secretary of the Law Society of Scotland, said yesterday: "He is a painstaking and meticulous man who will deal with the inquiry with enormous care. But above all he is a most caring and sensitive man and just the sort of person who will be able to deal with this tragedy without causing offence." Mr Pritchard added that the

judge also had a great sense of humour and tact, which had had stood him in good stead on the Piper Alpha inquiry.

Lord Cullen, who is married with two sons and two daughters, was educated at Dundee High School, St Andrews University and Edinburgh University. He was called to the Scottish Bar in 1960 and took silk in 1973.

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, told a Westminster briefing that Lord Cullen had been chosen for his ability to sift information quickly and efficiently. The judge will meet Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, the Lord Advocate, today to determine the exact terms of reference for the Dunblane inquiry.

Union calls for single entrances

By DAVID CHARTER

SECURITY

EVERY school in Britain must be redesigned so that it has only one entrance, teachers' unions said yesterday.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said yesterday that the measure might take years but was needed to reassure parents that schools were as safe as possible. Mr de Gruchy called for the group on school security, set up after the fatal stabbing of the head teacher Philip Lawrence last December, to be urgently reconvened to consider the move.

He said: "I think the group needs to

make a firm decision in principle to go for perimeter fencing to establish the boundaries of every school. I know it will take time, but if there is only one entrance it can be better monitored."

The National Union of Teachers backed the move, which was first recommended by Lord Elton in his 1989 inquiry into school security.

The issue of school security was already set to dominate the union conferences this Easter, before the Dunblane massacre.

At the conference of the Association of

Teachers and Lecturers, the first of the season, the union's Manchester branch will call for "legislation which will ensure that each school invests in adequate and appropriate safety and surveillance systems to protect staff and deter intruders".

John Young, head teacher of Sullivan Upper School in Holywood, Co Down, where two years ago an intruder turned a flamethrower on students sitting exams, said every school should now have a disaster plan.

Mr Young wrote yesterday to the head teacher of Dunblane Primary School to offer his support.

Education, page 37



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Edinburgh court rules on cousins' battle over right to Selkirk succession

Minister who gave up earldom to save Major wins it back

BY ANDREW PIERCE

LORD James Douglas-Hamilton, the minister who disclaimed an historic title to help the beleaguered Prime Minister, won a legal battle against his cousin yesterday for the 350-year-old Earldom of Selkirk.

At stake was not only the title, created by Charles I in 1646, and a seat in the House of Lords, but a £500,000 legacy and a valuable collection of family paintings.

Judgment was passed in the junior Scottish Office minister's favour by the Court of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh, Scotland's premier authority on heraldry and the peerage.

Alasdair Douglas-Hamilton, a lawyer with the Bank of Scotland who challenged his cousin Lord James for the earldom, said that he would appeal. "It has to be done to clarify the matter." Relations

between the two cousins, both nephews of the late 10th Earl of Selkirk, have cooled since his death in November 1994. In December, Mr Douglas-Hamilton said: "I hope we stay friends whatever the outcome." But yesterday, after the court ruled that he had to pay the hearing's undisclosed costs, he said: "If I had succeeded I was ready to pay for his as well as mine."

The case began when the 10th Earl of Selkirk, George Nigel Douglas-Hamilton, former First Lord of the Admiralty, died without male heirs at the age of 88. The earl had appeared to acknowledge Lord James as his heir in a letter dated September 10, 1989. In it he told his nephew he might have to make a quick decision about whether to accept the title or stay in the Commons.

Lord James last night welcomed the court's ruling. He said: "It is in line with what

my uncle, the late Earl of Selkirk, believed to be the case."

Lord James disclaimed the title, after consultation with Conservative Party managers, so he could vote in the Commons on European finance. If he had succeeded his uncle there would have been a by-election in his Edinburgh West constituency, where he has a majority of 879.

But the MP decided to pursue the claim on behalf of his son, John Andrew, 17, who would inherit the title on his death. The Lord Lyon, Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingburgh, in his ruling, made clear that Lord James could not use the title during his lifetime because he had disclaimed it.

A petition challenging Lord James's claim was lodged in September by Mr Douglas-Hamilton. He is named as heir to the Earldom by Burke's Peerage and Debrett's. The



Rivals: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, left, and Alasdair Douglas-Hamilton

case was heard in January. Four hours of debate centred on the interpretation of the original title, which was written in Latin. Charles I bestowed it on his younger brother, the first Duke of Hamilton. The title is traditionally held by the younger

brother of successive dukes. Lord James, 53, is the second son of the 14th Duke of Hamilton, the late earl's elder brother. Mr Douglas-Hamilton, 56, is the eldest son of the earl's younger brother Malcolm, who died in 1964.

Mr Douglas-Hamilton ar-

gued that he had been heir presumptive for 30 years and had been known as the Master of Selkirk. He lives ten miles from Selkirk and it would have been the first time for many years that the Earl of Selkirk was based in the Scottish borders.

RAF pilot fined for 'buzzing' village

The RAF's attitude to its flamboyant young pilots was criticised yesterday after a highly regarded flight lieutenant was court-martialled for "buzzing" his family home. Nicholas Paine, 28, was found guilty of causing unnecessary nuisance and annoyance to the public by making two passes over the village of Staple, Kent, in his Hawk jet last June. He was fined £500 and given a severe reprimand. After the verdict it was disclosed that he is leaving the service.

A fellow pilot said: "We will end up with a bunch of wimps defending the country. No one will ever again risk doing things at the limit. If the public complain at necessary low flying it will get the pilots it deserves."

Car fumes increase deaths

Modest increases in air pollution can increase the death rate in British cities, researchers have found. People are dying from traffic fumes at levels below World Health Organisation guidelines, according to a study by St George's Hospital Medical School in southwest London. Pollution, mainly from traffic, is exacerbating acute heart and lung conditions, the study says.

Drama chief quits BBC

Charles Denton, head of the BBC's television drama group, yesterday became the sixth senior executive within two months to leave the corporation. Although his departure had been expected for some months, it is still an embarrassment for the BBC. Mr Denton, 58, who joined three years ago from the commercial sector, will continue to work in a part-time capacity.

Smoking claims pressed

Lawyers for some 300 alleged victims of tobacco are calling on the five main cigarette manufacturers in Britain to settle medical claims in the light of a proposed \$1-\$2 billion settlement by the American tobacco company, Liggett. Martyn Day of the solicitors Leigh Day & Co, who is co-ordinating the claims in Britain, said the proposed settlement was a "major breaking of ranks".

Victim 'held under water'

Karen Skipper, the woman whose body was found in the River Ely at Cardiff, was probably held under water by her killer while her hands were bound behind her back, according to forensic tests. Police said: "An horrific picture is emerging of how she met her death and the person responsible must be found. It is likely that person arrived home noticeably wet and muddy."

Camelot TV fee warning

The National Heritage Select Committee warned the BBC yesterday that it would be in contempt of Parliament if it continued to ignore repeated requests to disclose how much money it paid the lottery operator Camelot to run the weekly lottery draw on BBC1 every Saturday night. Gerald Kaufman, the committee's chairman, accused the corporation of "gross discourtesy".

Record entry for Cruft's

Cruft's, the world's biggest dog show, opened yesterday with a record entry of more than 26,000 animals. The Kennel Club is keen to rid Cruft's of its image as a canine beauty contest and 20 per cent of the dogs will not be pedigrees. The show, at the NEC in Birmingham, will run until the Best In Show champion of champions is announced on Sunday. Leading article, page 19

Crimean letters auctioned

Seventy letters written home by a major in the Crimean War, complaining about giant rats, Florence Nightingale and British military leadership, fetched £5,980 at auction in London. Major Francis Beckford Ward's letters, which referred to Lord Raglan as a "damned red headed, oily tongued fellow from Woolwich", were bought at Phillips by an anonymous collector.

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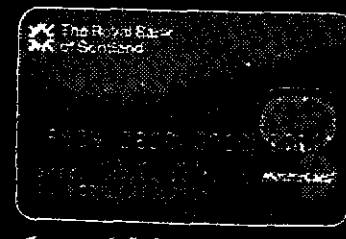
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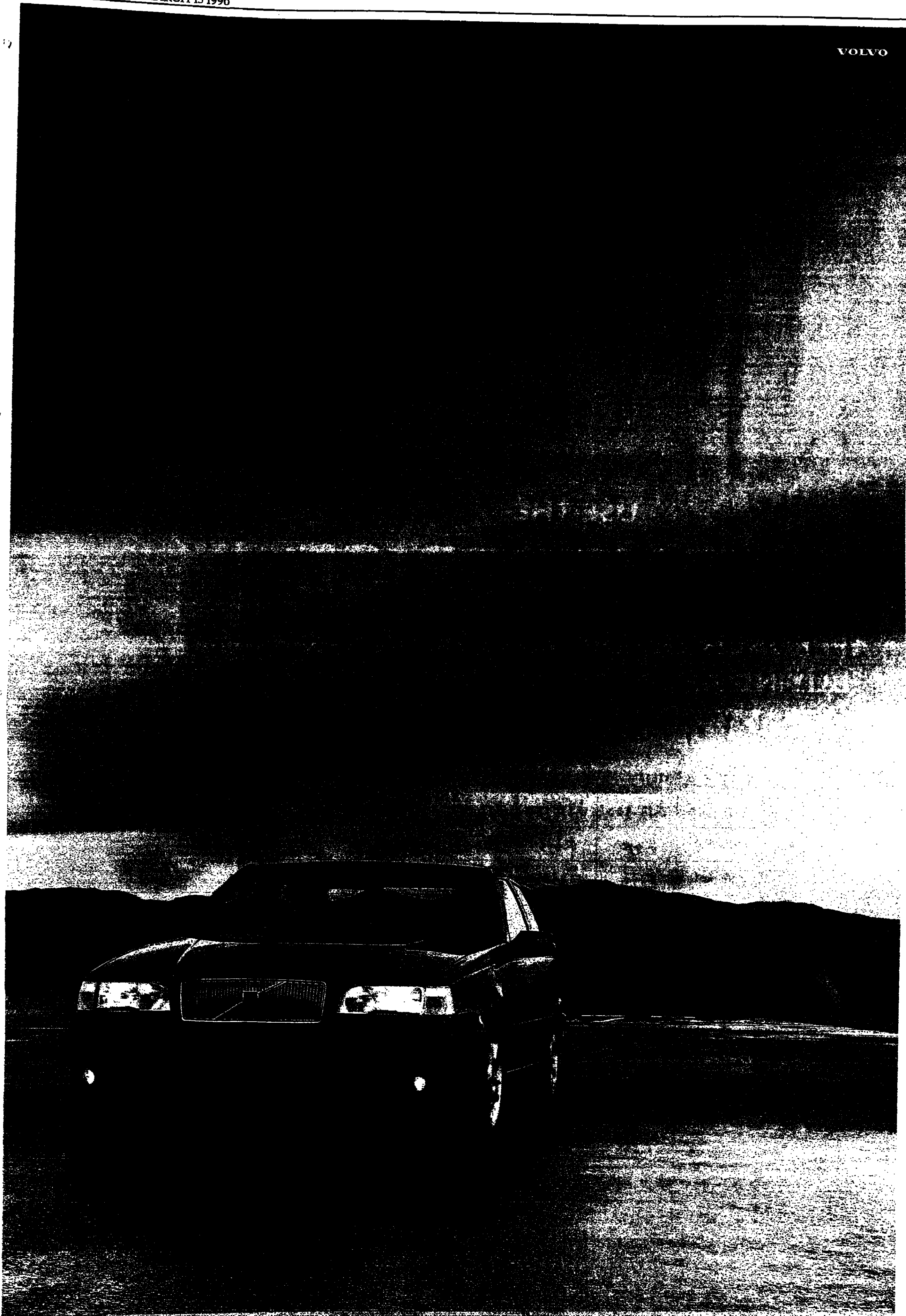
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GMC clears sacked German doctor who made drug error

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A GERMAN doctor accused of endangering the lives of children by prescribing the wrong drugs was cleared by a disciplinary hearing yesterday. Elisabeth Zittlau, 35, who said she got her British post after only a 30-minute interview at an agency in Amsterdam, admitted prescribing five times the usual dose of a stimulant to a premature baby but denied making other prescribing errors.

She said she had been thrust totally unprepared onto a busy hospital ward a few months after having a nervous breakdown, and had to "muddle through" because she was offered little help.

The General Medical Council's professional conduct committee found Dr Zittlau not guilty of serious misconduct after less than 30 minutes' deliberation. Staff at the two hospitals where she worked, who had sat through the two-day hearing, gasped as the decision was announced but

refused to comment afterwards.

Dr Zittlau, who was sacked for incompetence by both hospitals and had previously been dismissed in Germany, said she was "extremely relieved" at the outcome. "It has been very exhausting but now it's over I want to get back to work as quickly as possible. I am sure I can obtain a post at a hospital in this country in the near future," she said.

British hospitals are increasingly recruiting in Europe, Australia and South Africa because of a shortage of doctors. An extra 2,500 senior house officer posts have been created by the reduction in junior doctors' hours, but there are not enough medical graduates to fill them. The qualifications of those trained in the European Union are automatically recognised for practice in Britain.

Dr Zittlau said she had not met any senior doctors at Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, before she arrived to take up her post

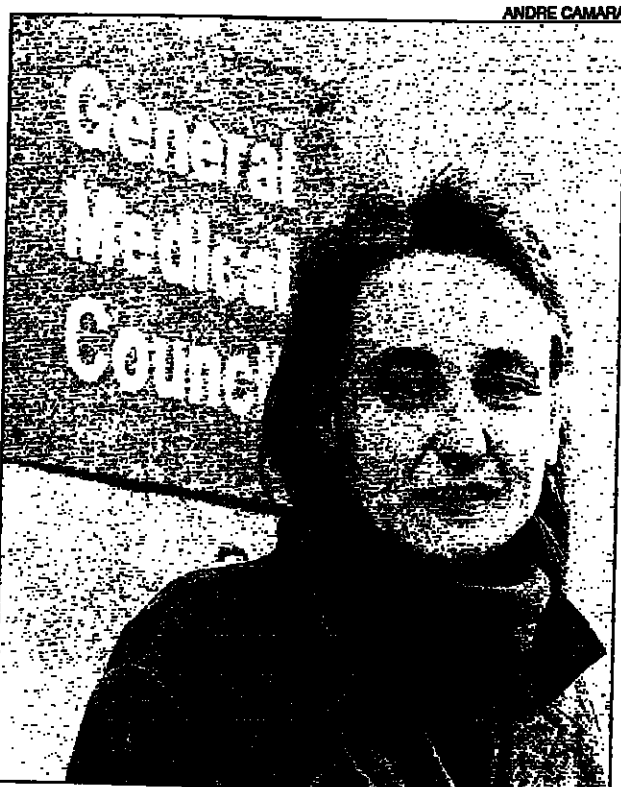
as a senior house officer in paediatrics in February 1994.

"When I got to the hospital I had to ask the receptionist where to go and what to do and she told me there was an introductory session, so me and four other new doctors went along and was shown all the departments and introduced to nurses and doctors," she told the hearing.

"I wasn't told anything about note-taking and documentation. I was only told there were problems just before I was dismissed."

She said there were no middle-ranking staff and she was simply told to inform her consultant if there was a problem with a baby or a new patient.

The doctor had expected to build up her paediatric experience and was unprepared for the work she was required to do from the outset. She told the committee she had never had to resuscitate babies when working in Germany and did not know how to work the Resuscitaire, one of the most



Dr Elisabeth Zittlau yesterday. She hopes to find another post, despite being sacked three times

commonly used instruments in paediatric wards throughout Europe.

The committee was told that Dr Zittlau took up her post in Bradford without telling staff she had been sacked from Friarage Hospital. She was dismissed from Bradford after colleagues became concerned at her treatment of patients and apparent lack of basic

English. Dr Zittlau asked for 100 micrograms of the drug Narcan to be given to a baby with breathing problems in Bradford Royal Infirmary. Rosalind Foster, barrister for the GMC, said this was five times the correct dose.

The doctor explained that she believed there were different preparations of the drug, which affected dosages.

Discovery prompts study of families

Scientists identify gene linked to depression

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS in Edinburgh have identified a gene linked to depression, which may help both in understanding the disease and in determining treatment.

They believe that more than 10 per cent of the three million people in Britain who suffer from depression carry this gene. Other genes are also likely to be involved in what is a complex disease.

The team, from the Medical Research Council's Brain Metabolism Unit at Royal Edinburgh Hospital and from the University of Edinburgh Medical School, studied 83 patients who suffered either from depression or manic depression and compared them with 193 people who had no such history.

The variant they have identified is in the gene responsible for making a protein called the serotonin transporter. The job of this protein is the fine control of the brain messenger serotonin. Successful antidepressant drugs such as Prozac operate by interfering with the

operation of this protein, so the gene for it was a good starting point for the Edinburgh team.

The differences they found between patients with depression and the normal volunteers was a subtle one. One segment of the gene consists of the same sequence of 17 DNA base pairs, repeated either nine, ten or twelve times.

Such regions are frequently found in genes and are known as VNTRs (variable number tandem repeats). Because they vary in different individuals, VNTRs are the basis of genetic fingerprinting.

The team reports in *The Lancet* that people with only nine repeats were much more likely to suffer from depression than those with ten or twelve repeats. While the nine-repeat region was found in about 2 per cent of the controls, it occurred in almost 13 per cent of those with depression. No strong link was found to manic depression.

Exactly how the smaller repeat region causes the dis-

ease remains uncertain. It may be that the smaller number of repeats reduces the stability of the protein that transports serotonin. Alternatively, the nine-repeat region may be linked to other mutations elsewhere in the gene and may simply be acting as a "marker" for those mutations.

The team is now investigating these possibilities, and studying families who have a history of depression to see whether the nine-repeat is prevalent in these families. The finding, which has been patented and licensed to the drug company Lilly, may provide a way of screening people to test whether they are prone to depression, improving diagnosis.

In the next few months, says Professor George Fink, director of the unit, the team will be studying 200 individuals to see if the genetic variant explains why depression runs in families. "The aim is to develop it as a screening test," Professor Fink said yesterday.

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Fruit and veg keeps the brain in trim



A LIVELY mind in old age may be as much the result of a morning glass of orange juice, or fruit salads, fresh vegetables and potatoes cooked in their skins as the intellectual stimulation provided by regular attendance at lectures or evening classes.

Research by the Medical Research Council unit at Southampton recently published in the *BMJ* shows that there is a clear correlation between the maintenance of intellectual function in elderly people and their intake of vitamin C. The amount of vitamin C in the diet was also closely related to the likelihood of a patient suffering a stroke. These two links were independent of class, illness or any other diet difference.

A decline in intelligence was not associated with any increase in the risk of death from coronary heart disease, cancer or chronic chest diseases, which are other common causes of death in the older age groups. The health of people taking part in the trial was tracked for 20 years. The knowledge obtained has enabled the research workers to suggest that a low vitamin

C diet precedes rather than follows intellectual loss.

The association between the risk of death from stroke, low vitamin C blood levels and dietary intake and intellectual failure in old age, raises the question whether the benefits from high levels of vitamin C result only from the maintenance of a good blood supply to the brain by virtue of its ability to slow the progress of arterial disease. Analysis of the study does suggest that in many cases poor brain power in old age may well be the result of cerebrovascular disease and that the antioxidant power of vitamin C stops the arteries becoming furred.

Work in China has shown a correlation between a bad memory and a poor ability for abstract thinking in the elderly and low levels of folic acid and vitamin B12, as well as the antioxidant vitamin C. It is encouraging to think that daily vitamin supplements may be preserving our arteries and our intellects.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

RENAULT SUPPORTS TOMMY'S CAMPAIGN



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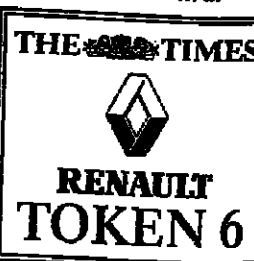
There are also 50 runners-up prizes of *Baby Love*, a compilation CD made to support Tommy's Campaign which funds vital medical research into the causes of premature birth, miscarriage and stillbirth.

Each year 40,000 babies are born too soon or too small and one in four women suffer the trauma of a miscarriage. In many cases the cause remains unknown. You can help to give all babies a better start by sending a donation to: Tommy's Campaign, London, SE99 6RD, or by calling: 0171-620-2654.



HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win the Renault Clio simply collect four of the seven tokens appearing daily until Saturday and attach them to the voucher published in Saturday's paper. The overall winner and 50 runners-up will be chosen at random from all entries received by March 25, 1996. No purchase is necessary. If you missed any tokens you can obtain them by sending an s.a.e. to *The Times* Renault Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN. Requests must be received by Monday March 18. Only two tokens per s.a.e. are permitted.



Drivers must get 75% to pass

Written test aims to teach learners how to think and drive

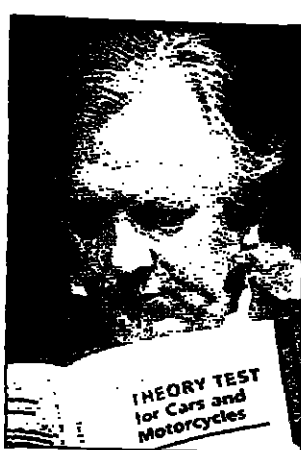
By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

LEARNER drivers will need to become experts in the law, first aid and road etiquette as well as display detailed knowledge of the Highway Code after the written driving test is introduced on July 1.

A government book, listing 600 questions and answers, was published yesterday and revealed that the test would cover a wide range of topics of which previous candidates have been able to remain ignorant.

Candidates will be asked 35 questions drawn at random from the list and will have to get at least 26 right. The test replaces the three-minute oral question-and-answer session on the Highway Code at the end of the road test, which covered topics such as road signs and stopping distances.

Learner drivers could be asked detailed questions about the medical effects of alcohol, what to do for an injured motorcyclist before the emergency services arrive, what to do if you are first on the scene of an accident involving a



Norris: test designed to reduce accidents

chemical spill and the legal obligations of a driver in an accident involving an injury. Topics covered by the test include consideration and courtesy to other road users, basic car maintenance, basic first-aid and the punishments for driving offences.

Launching the £9.99 book, *The Complete Theory Test for Cars and Motorcycles*, in London yesterday, Steven Norris, the Transport Minis-

ter, said: "The written test is not intended to be a great IQ test nor a test of English essay writing."

"Young drivers are responsible for 20 per cent of the accidents on the roads and account for 25 per cent of fatalities. What youngsters lack is hazard awareness and what this new test is trying to do is to build up hazard-awareness skills."

The announcement in January of the 40-minute theory tests triggered a stampede of learner drivers desperate to qualify before July 1. Test waiting times have soared and telephone lines to test application offices have been jammed by learners seeking an early test date.

Yesterday, the Driving Standards Agency sought to calm the nerves of candidates. Philip Welsh, the agency's publications manager, said: "People should not be frightened by this new part of the test. We certainly don't think it's going to be too difficult for anyone."

The questions will be drawn from 14 categories with at least one question from each. The test will be held at 139 centres in England, Scotland and Wales and will affect all 1.7 million learner car, motorcycle, bus and lorry drivers who take tests each year.

The British School of Motoring, Britain's biggest driving instruction company, warned that hundreds of thousands of learners would fail the written test. In mock tests of nearly 500 learners carried out last month only 30 per cent achieved the 70 per cent pass rate required. Only one of those tested answered all 35 questions correctly.

Richard Glover, managing director of BSM, said the results of the mock tests proved that the new examination would not be a pushover. The BSM and motoring organisations criticised the DSA for opting for a cheap "pencil and paper" test rather than introducing electronic interactive equipment.



Orlan's operation to rearrange her face was broadcast live into galleries worldwide

How plastic surgery adds to the high temple of art

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN ARTIST who underwent extensive plastic surgery to make her face resemble various Renaissance beauties has had an operation to give her "horns". Orlan, a French artist known only by her surname, has taken the idea of suffering for one's art to new limits, having implants used by plastic surgeons to build up cheekbones inserted into her temples.

She makes her British debut next month at two public galleries. The Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, receives an annual grant of £815,000 from the Arts Council, and the Zone Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne is supported by £112,000 from Northern Arts. She will also

be the subject of debate on concepts of beauty at the 22nd annual conference of the Association of Art Historians in Newcastle, to be attended by more than 500 scholars.

Some have already made up their minds. "Ghastly," said one observer. "It's not art," said another. "She's going for the shock value." Some academics, however, such as Sarah Wilson of the Courtauld Institute are inspired by an artist who can "manage her own metamorphosis". Lois Keidan, the ICA's director of live arts, said: "Orlan is an artist of international acclaim using her own body to appropriate developments in medical science, cosmetic surgery and new technologies to question

the nature of the body and allusions of beauty in the late 20th century."

In 1993 Orlan, 48, invited people to watch a plastic surgeon "sculpt" her face. In a "performance work" she requested the forehead of Leonardo's *Mona Lisa*, the lips of Boucher's *Europa* and the chin of Botticelli's *Venus*. It was her seventh operation and was broadcast live by satellite from the operating theatre in a private clinic on Fifth Avenue in New York into galleries worldwide.

Michelle Hirschhorn, curator of the Zone Gallery, said the "horns" were small lumps. Orlan had tried to take bits of the most beautiful women to become "the most beautiful of them all".

Operator jailed over sinking of Pescado

By TIM JONES

A TRAWLER operator was jailed for three years yesterday for manslaughter after a court was told he had sent a crew of novices to their deaths.

Joseph O'Connor, 44, was found guilty by a jury at Bristol Crown Court. The *Pescado* sank off Cornwall in February 1991 with the loss of her six-man crew.

Francis Gilbert, QC, for the prosecution, said the crew had been sent out in an "unseaworthy, unstable trawler". The main radio on the 40-year-old vessel did not work; she was not carrying an emergency radio satellite alert beacon; and the ten-man liferaft was out of date and sank with the ship because it was lashed to the railings.

Mr Gilbert said that when the *Pescado* capsized, probably after her fishing gear snagged the seabed, the crew were "left to sink or swim".

O'Connor, of Plymouth, was acquitted of six manslaughter charges that specified crew members. But he was found guilty of a seventh, alternative charge of manslaughter, put to him at the end of the prosecution case in the seventh week of the trial.

That charge, which alleged the manslaughter of a person unknown, a member of the crew, claimed the trawler was carrying inadequate safety equipment when she sank after sailing from Falmouth.

The jury acquitted Alan Ayres, 56, of Plymouth, of the six manslaughter charges on the direction of Mr Justice Mantell. O'Connor and Mr Ayres were respectively managing agent and de facto director of Guideday Ltd, which owned the *Pescado*, registered in Plymouth. Both men had denied the charges.

All seven charges against O'Connor alleged that he was in breach of a duty of care to the crew to the extent that it amounted to gross negligence, which was a substantial cause of death.

The lost crew were the skipper, Neil Curry, 28, from South Uist; Jo-Anne Thomas, 23, from Plymouth; Peter Birley, 34, from Falmouth; Steve Hardy, 33, from Plymouth; Sean Kelly, 17, from Brixham; and Adrian Flynn, 21, from Lincoln.

MP fined for inciting crowd

Roy Beggs, Ulster Unionist MP for East Antrim, was fined £1,350 by Larne magistrates yesterday for inciting a crowd to block a road outside the Co Antrim town.

Larne ferry port was blockaded for 16 hours last July in support of Orange Order members involved in a stand-off with police in Co Antrim. Beggs, 60, admitted obstructing traffic and police but denied telling anyone to block the road.

Algerian remand

A French-Algerian wanted in France after Islamic fundamentalist bomb attacks last year was remanded yesterday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, pending extradition. Mustapha Boutarfa, 21, was arrested in Cricklewood, northwest London.

Newspaper loses

The *European* newspaper failed to convince the High Court that *The Economist* magazine was infringing its masthead trademark by using the title "European Voice" for a new weekly journal. It was refused an injunction forcing a change in name.

Head honoured

The new library of La Sainte Union College of Higher Education at Southampton, to be opened on March 26, is to be named named after Philip Lawrence, the head teacher who was stabbed to death in December outside his north London school.

Lawrence letters

Thirteen unpublished letters written by Lawrence of Arabia sold for £53,000 at Phillips in London. They were found among family papers at Truro, Cornwall, by the daughter of R.E. Lesson, a First World War veteran who served with Lawrence.

Couch workout

Scientists have proved that sitting slumped in front of the TV uses 20 per cent more energy than simply slumping. Researchers in Tennessee built a bedside inside a giant calorimeter, a device to measure energy consumption, and studied volunteers.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A sample of questions from the written driving test:

You are involved in an accident and a third party is injured. You are unable to produce your insurance certificate at the time. You must report the accident to the police within: a) 24 hours; b) 48 hours; c) 5 days; d) 14 days (Answer: a).

How best can you best control your vehicle when driving in snow? a) by driving slowly in as high a gear as possible; b) by staying in lower gear and gripping the steering wheel tightly; c) by driving in first gear; d) by keeping the engine revs high and slipping the clutch (Answer: a).

You are driving on a motorway. By mistake you go past the exit which you wanted to take. You should: a) carry on to the next exit; b) carefully reverse on the hard shoulder; c) carefully reverse in the left hand lane; d) make a U-turn in the next gap in the central reservation (Answer: a).

While driving along an open road, you notice the temperature gauge is recording a rapid rise in temperature. The most likely cause is: a) engine oil is low; b) spark plugs have oil on them; c) fan belt has broken; d) thermostat has broken (Answer: c).

If you notice a strong smell of petrol as you drive along you should: a) stop and investigate the problem; b) not worry as it is only exhaust fumes; c) carry on at a reduced speed; d) expect it to stop in a few miles (Answer: a).

Price war breaks out over beans

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE supermarkets have declared a new war: this time over baked beans. After the Aldi and Netto discount chains, which have more than 200 stores between them, started selling at 5p a tin, Kwik Save, with 1,000 stores, similarly cut its beans from 6p to 5p, followed by Tesco which has reduced its Value Line from 10p to 5p.

Branded beans, though undoubtedly superior, sell at 32p a tin and are losing market share. Other bargains of the week include Mother's Day bouquets reduced at Sainsbury's from £5.99 to £2.99. Promotions include:

Asda: spicy chicken steaks 99p for 200g, healthy choice pork £3.94 kg, fresh beef braising steak £4.38 kg, fresh diced

WEEKEND SHOPPING

turkey thigh £2.18 kg, frozen cannelloni 99p for 400g. Budegens: Sunbird skinless chicken breast fillets £1.99 for 500g, mixed salad and peppers 99p for 300g, Uncle Ben's curry cooking sauces 99p for 475g, Mullerlight yogurts 29p for 200g.

Co-op: Cherry Valley frozen duck in orange sauce £2.99 for 450g, fresh chicken basted with garlic and parsley £2.99 for 1.45kg, vegetable spring rolls £1.09 for 200g, sausage rolls 89p for five, light soft cheese 75p for 200g.

Harrods: Bresaola Punta d'Anca £2.95 for 100g, fresh herb butters £13.65 kg, Dutch red or white cabbage 30p lb, Icelandic tenderised sirloin steaks £3.97 for six, basted

chicken £3.49 for 2-4 to 2.6kg, mesquite chicken breasts £1.99 for two, chilled pork shoulder £1.79 for 454g, Mediterranean fish bake 99p for 300g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken breast fillets £7.99 for 975g, skinless hake fillets in light crispy breadcrumb 99p for 227g, salmon en croûte £2.49 for 400g, potato croquettes 99p for 250g, frozen Black Forest gâteau £1.99 for 540g.

Morrison: Vale of Mowbray pork pies 99p for four, cod fillet £4.38 kg, haddock fillet £4.82 kg, whole mackerel £1.65 kg, frozen Yorkshire puddings 99p for 12.

Sainsbury: boneless shoulder of pork £2.65 kg, supertrim braising steak £2.79 for 454g, crab flavoured fish sticks 79p

for 120g, oak-smoked ham 59p 4 lb, freshly squeezed orange juice £1.99 ltr.

Sainsbury's: New Zealand fresh lamb leg £5.49 kg, Lincolnshire sausages £1.09 for 454g, fresh beef topside £5.49 kg, Braeburn apples 46p lb, Genoa cakes 70p each.

Somerfield: fresh boneless shoulder of pork £2.18 kg, fresh turkey sausages 99p for 454g, fresh haddock fillet £3.15 kg, gammon ham 42p 4 lb, white seedless grapes 69p lb.

Tesco: sirloin steak £8.99 kg, boneless rolled shoulder of pork £2.59 kg, lamb loin chops £1.69 kg, cod fillet £1.95 lb, olive ciabatta 79p.

Waitrose: pork shoulder steaks £3.39 for 770g, prime cod fillets £3.49 lb, peeled tiger prawns £5.99 lb, New Zealand vintage cheddar £2.19 lb, golden plums 89p lb.

Runaways 'need more time away'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

RUNAWAY children should be allowed to stay in refuges without their parents' knowledge longer than the present limit of 14 days, ChildLine said yesterday.

Esther Rantzen, chairman of the telephone helpline charity, said a fortnight was too short to decide the futures of vulnerable youngsters.

ChildLine said 26 per cent of runaways who called its free-phone number had fled home because of physical abuse and 7 per cent from sexual abuse. There are at least 43,000 runaways under 18 recorded each year but only four safe houses for them, in London, Leeds, Dorset and Wales.

At the end of a fortnight, according to the Children Act, the refuge must return the children to their parents unless they are going into care. Until then, the refuge does not have to tell the runaways' parents where they are.

ChildLine said that many youngsters ran away again before the two weeks were up to avoid either prospect. Many were also reluctant to involve social services because they feared being sent home and punished for talking to stran-

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12 AMERICA

US forecasts big erosion of its white majority

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA, facing one of the sharpest shifts in ethnic and racial composition since the slave trade transformed the South, expects its white population to shrink to a bare majority by the middle of the next century.

The profound demographic change, fuelled by immigration and higher birth rates among Hispanic women, will reduce the proportion of whites in the population to 53 per cent by 2050, down from 74 per cent today.

Although the United States is the fastest growing nation in the industrialised world, a report by the Census Bureau in Washington yesterday predicted a general slowdown in American population growth. Now at its lowest rate since the Great Depression of the 1930s, it is expected to reach a historic record by 2025, when growth is expected to drop to the smallest percentage since surveys began in 1970. The only white age-group whose numbers are rising fast is the cluster of Baby Boomers fast heading for retirement.

As a result, expansion in large part will be limited to the Hispanic and Asian communities whose populations will more than double in the next half century. The report said the proportion of Hispanics would increase from 10.2 per cent to 24.5 per cent, and of Asians, from 3.3 per cent to 8.2 per cent. The black population would rise just 1.6 per cent by 2050.

The new diversity predicted by the bureau will present a host of economic and social issues for a country that has prided itself as a multicultural melting pot but never quite come to terms with its heritage. For example, the report said that by 2030, the white population would make up less than half of those under the age of 18, but three-quarters of those over 65.

Experts believe questions about tax revenues, education and healthcare may increasingly take on a racial tinge early in the 21st century. You might have somewhat poorer Hispanics being asked to pay

for the benefits of relatively well-off white Baby Boomers," said William Frey, of the Population Studies Centre at the University of Michigan. "It's not clear what the political dynamic of that will be. It may not just be the boomers versus the busters."

Immigration has become one of the main themes of the Republican primary season and the census report is likely to add to anger among white Americans, who have supported the border blockade policies of Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator.

In part based on the annual net increase of 820,000 immigrants, both legal and illegal, the survey will place further pressure on Republicans and Democrats who support changes in immigration law. The Clinton Administration and Republican leadership in Congress, advocating stronger efforts against illegal aliens, are sponsoring separate bills that would reduce legal immigration by about a third.

Much of the debate has focused on whether immigrants take jobs from Americans, but its subtext clearly concerns population growth and ethnic diversity.

As is so often the case, California is ahead of the rest of America. The state, which in 1994 introduced Proposition 187, legislation against illegal immigrants, could have a Hispanic majority by 2040. The immigration issue will be a central theme of California's Republican primary in a fortnight.

Some experts believe the report has underestimated the true impact of the demographic shift. "I would be willing to bet that it is a conservative estimate," said Peter Francese, president of *American Demographics Magazine*. "The white population could be less than a majority much sooner."

□ Houston: As many as 3,200 illegal immigrants died along the Texas-Mexico border between 1984 and 1994, most by drowning, in the swift waters of the Rio Grande, according to a study that was released yesterday. (Reuters)

Lacklustre Dole weighs option of enlisting Powell

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FOUR months after Colin Powell ruled out a US presidential bid, the popular general is once again the focus of political speculation.

The two questions tantalising America are whether Robert Dole will ask General Powell to be his Republican running-mate, and whether the architect of the Allies' Gulf War victory would accept.

Mr Dole would clearly love to have General Powell on his ticket, even at the risk of being overshadowed. The general would lend the Senate majority leader's candidacy the lustre it lacks at present. General Powell would be immensely appealing to the centrist voters who determine presidential elections, and a great reassurance to those worried by Mr Dole's age.

Polls suggest General Powell would boost Mr Dole's support by at least 10 percentage points, putting him ahead of President Clinton. "When it comes to the vice-presidency, Powell is our first five choices," one senior Dole aide told *Time* magazine.

The problem is the religious Right, which is now a key force in the Republican Party and abhors General Powell's support for abortion rights.

Pat Buchanan has given warnings that a Dole-Powell ticket would "split the party asunder and many of my people will walk out". Ralph Reed, head of the 12 million-member Christian Coalition, is also hostile. Mr Dole is in



Powell: being cajoled to run by George Bush

the Coalition leadership's debt. It backed him in the primaries despite Mr Buchanan's much stronger commitment to its agenda. But his ultimate calculation must be whether the centrist voters attracted by General Powell would outweigh lost conservative and damaging pictures of a disrupted August convention.

If Mr Dole can close the gap on Mr Clinton before the convention, he would probably opt for a safe running-mate such as John Engler, the Governor of Michigan, an anti-abortion conservative.

But he might just conclude that General Powell is worth the risk. Barely 10 per cent of Republican primary voters said that banning abortion was their top priority.

Whether the general could be persuaded to run is another matter. Ken Duberstein, his closest adviser, insists that the door the general closed last November remains "slammed shut". However, George Bush, the former President, is said to be gently cajoling General Powell on Mr Dole's behalf.

□ Forbes quits Steve Forbes, the publisher, formally abandoned his bid for the Republican presidential nomination yesterday after spending \$30 million (£20 million) on his self-financed campaign.



Ernie and Bert, two Muppets stolen from a garden show exhibit in eastern Germany six weeks ago, in the safe arms of the law in Weimar yesterday. Police turned the pair over to the

Puppets show up unscathed

agency that organised the German tour of 36 original Muppet puppets. Neither had been damaged. Thieves

knocked through a wall to steal Ernie and Bert, together valued at £83,000, from the show. A private radio

station received an anonymous call on Tuesday offering to return the puppets to a middleman, but the motive for the theft and the identity of the thief remain unknown. (AP)

Father of Beat generation rests in peace

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AN ATTEMPT to disinter the Beat author Jack Kerouac has hit difficulties. The town of Lowell, Massachusetts, where Kerouac was buried in 1969, wants to keep him in its cemetery because, among other things, he is good for business.

Kerouac's daughter Jan, 44, who met her father only twice, applied to dig him up and re-bury him in nearby Nashua, New Hampshire, where the Kerouac family has a graveyard plot. She said she was told this week that the body must remain where it is.

The author of *On the Road* ended up in the Lowell cemetery for two reasons: he

was born and lived there, and his third wife's people had a plot there. Stella Kerouac, who died in 1990, was laid to rest alongside her husband.

Jan Kerouac, the child of an earlier marriage, argued that Nashua was the source of Kerouac's Franco-American heritage. "It was Nashua which got him started thinking about life," she said.

Clinton cast in new lead role as man of peace

BY TOM RHODES

IN 1992 Hollywood made *The Man From Hope*, a 13-minute documentary about Bill Clinton that stole the heart of the Democratic convention and won him the presidency.

But times have changed. What needs to be conveyed now is statesmanship.

To this end, the President was extensively filmed at this week's anti-terror summit in Sinai. Even as he addressed an anxious Israeli public, a restive Palestinian population and the wider Arab world, groups that America is desperate to persuade to speed up the flagging Middle East peace process, he has had an eye on a fourth constituency — the American electorate.

The presence of Mort Engelberg, a documentary producer, was testimony to that. Mr Engelberg returned from Israel last night with hundreds of feet of film that may prove priceless in the months of televised campaigning ahead. Among the shots he has in the can is one of President Mubarak of Egypt praising Mr Clinton as "a statesman of vision and courage"; another shows the President, head bowed, praying at the grave of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Israeli leader.

The portrayal of Mr Clinton as a world statesman is a recognised part of the re-election strategy, and White House aides say the coming

months will be spent focusing on the President's credentials as a catalyst for peace in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Haiti as well as the Middle East.

But the tactic may backfire. In domestic terms, the election battlefield has been staked out between the White House and Capitol Hill over a future balanced budget for America. The end of the Cold War has meant that foreign policy has great potential to detract from presidential popularity.

And all of Mr Clinton's apparent successes are possible domestic minefields. The Middle East is shaky, renewed attacks by the IRA have undermined the peace process in Northern Ireland, and the fragile ceasefire in Bosnia could end at any moment as the spring thaw approaches in the Balkans.

Nevertheless, the possible rewards are considerable. Constrained by a Republican Congress at home, Mr Clinton can operate almost unhindered abroad. Almost four years ago, he ended his film with the words: "I still believe in a place called Hope." In Sharm el Sheikh, venue for the summit, he said: "Let our charge go forth from the Sinai today, we will win the battle for peace." The cutting rooms of Hollywood have probably started work already. *The Man From Hope*, perhaps?

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Cypriots riot as priest is tried for immorality

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

NEARLY 200 people were injured yesterday when the Archbishop's Palace in Nicosia between riot police and thousands of supporters of a suspended priest who was being tried by a religious court on charges of immorality.

The demonstrators, from schoolchildren to old-age pensioners, tried to tear down barked wire barricades to storm the building where the priest, Archbishop Makarios, 39, faced a panel of bishops that was hearing evidence against him. Club-wielding riot police fired teargas to disperse the protesters, who hurled abuse at Archbishop Makarios. He is seeking to get Father Pangratis defrocked.

"You are an adulterer, an anti-Christ, the son of a whore," crowds screamed when the Archbishop made a brief appearance at a window of his besieged palace in the historic heart of Nicosia.

Father Pangratis, who was smuggled out of the palace through a back door, urged his supporters to go home and pray for peace in the church. Several policemen hit by stones were among the injured.

The Archbishop has

claimed that Father Pangratis is a homosexual. The accusation is a serious slur in a conservative country that decriminalised homosexuality only four years ago.

Father Pangratis was charged because "he was seen in places where 'people of the night' gather," the Archbishop declared on Wednesday, hint-

ing darkly that the priest had not gone to such places on pastoral duty.

Last month, Father Pangratis, a mild-mannered and bespectacled man, went into self-imposed exile in Greece to avoid damage to the Church. While he was away, an overwhelming majority in the district of Morphou elected him as their new bishop. The Archbishop refused to ordain him. The priest returned to a tumultuous welcome last Sunday to face trial.

The unholy row has threatened an unprecedented revolution in the powerful and prosperous Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus, where the authority of the Archbishop has rarely been challenged.

Supporters of Father Pangratis say he is a humble "man of the people" who helps the poor and the needy. They contrast his simple lifestyle to the affluence of some bishops who drive Mercedes Benz cars and manage the church's extensive interests in the tourism industry. Not since the late Archbishop Makarios has a cleric here inspired such devotion.

Father Pangratis was given five days to prepare a written answer to the charges against him.

At an earlier Holy Synod meeting on Monday, a taxi driver and massage parlour owner testified against him. They were branded "false witnesses" by the priest's supporters, who claim that Father Pangratis is the victim of a vicious smear campaign organised by the Archbishop

as part of a plan to fill the Morphou seat with his own candidate. A majority of the local press shares that view.

An opinion poll published in Wednesday's papers showed 70 per cent believed the Archbishop was wrong in his handling of the situation. Only 4 per cent backed him: 62 per

cent said the Archbishop had conducted a dirty tricks campaign to tarnish the priest's good name.

The Archbishop, whose leadership style was condemned as "Stalinist" by one newspaper, has refused to pour oil on troubled waters. Asked by a television reporter

to explain why Father Pangratis had so many supporters, he described them as "Modinos", using the surname of Alecos Modinos, the chairman of a group campaigning for rights for homosexuals in Cyprus. Mr Modinos is now considering legal action against the Archbishop.



A supporter of the accused priest flees from police teargas after trying to storm the Archbishop's palace

Epidemic claims 4,500 lives

Geneva: A meningitis epidemic has ravaged West Africa since the start of the year, claiming 3,400 lives in Nigeria and 4,500 in the region as a whole, the World Health Organisation said yesterday.

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation with 100 million people, there have been 18,993 cases in the northern area.

The death toll in neighbouring Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad totals 1,190 out of 12,528 cases reported, the health organisation said.

It has launched a \$2 million appeal, a quarter of which is needed immediately to eliminate the illness in Nigeria. (AFP)

Cash for Japan's Aids victims

Tokyo: The Japanese Government and pharmaceutical companies have agreed to pay lifetime support to Aids patients who blame their infection on bureaucratic negligence and corporate greed.

About 400 haemophiliacs infected with HIV have sued the Government. Those with the virus who have not developed Aids will also get compensation. Sales of unpasteurised blood products continued two years after it became known, in 1983, that Aids could be transmitted by them.

Mugabe's rival to pull out

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S presidential elections, scheduled for the weekend, were thrown into confusion yesterday when the only challenger to President Mugabe made preparations to withdraw from the unequal contest.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, 71, leader of the opposition United Parties which cannot afford to pay for a telephone, announced after a party central committee meeting here that he was going to the Supreme Court today to seek a postponement of the elections. "What we do depends on that," he said.

The bishop's withdrawal will mean that the election will have to be cancelled and Mr Mugabe declared elected unopposed, officials of the election directorate said.

Observers say it will be a humiliation for Mr Mugabe, who has spent millions of dollars in the past six weeks on a campaign to crush his opponents, whose chances of retaining their deposits have been rated as slim.

182 journalists held last year

Washington: In an increase blamed on crackdowns on independent reporting in Nigeria and Ethiopia, a record number of 182 journalists, nine more than in 1994, were jailed in 22 countries last year, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Turkey and Ethiopia were responsible for jailing most journalists, but China, Vietnam and Burma also imprisoned large numbers, the New York-based organisation said. (AFP)

Chechen rebels launch attacks

Moscow: Russian and Chechen rebel forces were squaring up for a serious confrontation after separatist fighters stepped up attacks in the capital, Grozny, and Russian aircraft hit rebel bastions to the south (Richard Beeston writes). Clashes near the city centre left four people dead, while the Russians bombarded the towns of Bamut, Orekhovo and Stary Achkoi.

Pope recovers from fever

Rome: The Pope, 75, was in "very good" condition and spirits after the sudden fever that forced him to cancel a general audience on Wednesday had practically disappeared the Vatican said. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief spokesman, added: "We foresee that the Pope will rest for a few days."

Pregnant pause

Lagos: A woman gave birth in her car while waiting for more than three hours in a queue at a Nigerian petrol station at the height of a fuel shortage. She was helped by the petrol station's woman owner. (AFP)

EU ruling threatens London art market

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

LONDON could lose its position as a world capital for contemporary art sales if EU governments endorse a law which would force Britain to impose a levy on sales through agents or public auction.

The threat, described last night by British auction houses as serious, springs from a Commission decision on Wednesday to "harmonise" the European art market by requiring all EU states to pass a percentage of the sales price back to the artist or his or her heirs every time a work of art changes hands.

All EU members operate such a system except Britain. The Netherlands, Austria and Ireland. It stands a good chance of being adopted because it will be subject to the majority voting procedure rather than unanimity.

"It's an idiotic system," said Anthony Browne, a director of Christie's. "It is just going to drive sales at the top end of the market away to New York."

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Western intelligence lists four military options that could be used to put more pressure on Taipei

China offensive cannot be ruled out, experts say

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

CHINA has four military options if it wants to achieve more than just impose psychological pressure on Taiwan with its naval and air manoeuvres, according to Western intelligence sources yesterday.

Although the intelligence assessment is that China will not risk any important military action against Taiwan, some form of offensive operation has not been ruled out by Western agencies, which have been monitoring the Chinese missile firings and air-sea training exercises.

There is also a genuine concern that with the Chinese increasing the hardware and troops involved in the exercise, there is a risk of a misfiring or an accidental launch of a

missile that could lead to a military confrontation.

The first option, the sources said, was to develop the sea-borne manoeuvres into a naval blockade, sealing off the two main ports to the south and north which, in the long term, could seriously damage the Taiwanese economy.

One intelligence source said: "The Chinese clearly have the ability to carry out a blockade, using surface ships and submarines, but they have never done it before and there has to be some doubt about whether they could sustain it. A blockade could also provoke a response from the Taiwanese, although they do not have any noticeable anti-submarine capability."

The second option was to launch an amphibious landing on one of the offshore islands in Taiwanese hands.

The intelligence services believe it is more likely the Chinese would use psychological warfare to give the impression they were about to seize one of the islands, rather than carry it out. However, if there was pressure within the Chinese military to achieve at least a token military success against Taiwan, this option could not be dismissed.

The sources said the Chinese would not risk attempting an amphibious landing on one of the heavily fortified islands, in particular Quemoy, which is guarded by 40,000 Taiwanese troops, or Matsu, which has a defence force of 9,000. Two other islands, however, Wuchiu and Tungyin, are less heavily defended and may pose an easier target, the sources said.

However, China is not well equipped to mount an effective amphibious operation at short notice. They would have to anticipate taking heavy casualties. The Chinese have a division of 10,000 to 15,000 amphibious assault troops.

The third option would be to mount a missile attack on key targets in Taiwan. Chinese missiles have sufficient range and they would cause considerable damage. They have already demonstrated that their M9 missiles, fired without explosive warheads from a base in the Nanking military district, have been launched successfully, landing inside the two designated target "boxes" northeast and southwest of Taiwan.

However, missile launches with real warheads could provoke a confrontation with the United States which, by the end of next week, will have two carrier groups in the area. In Washington, the House of Representatives international relations committee said yesterday that America should help Taiwan to defend itself against any Chinese



An official photograph of Chinese amphibious armoured personnel carriers in action during an exercise. Peking has 10,000 to 15,000 amphibious assault troops, but intelligence sources say that would not be enough for a Taiwan invasion

Peking sends out mixed signals

FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA sent both bellicose and conciliatory signals yesterday as tension continued in the Taiwan Strait over Chinese military exercises and the deployment of US naval battle groups.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Shen Guofang, described the presence of the American vessels as reckless. But in remarks viewed as restrained by diplomats in Peking, he described US behaviour towards China as inconsistent and urged talks between the two countries. A meeting between Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, and Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, was being discussed.

A belligerent editorial in the official *China Daily* said yesterday that reunification of the country was of vital importance to the Chinese people. "To accomplish it at any cost might have to be justified," the newspaper said.

The carrier *USS Independence* has already been deployed east of Taiwan, while another, the *USS Nimitz*, with escorting vessels, is on the way from the Gulf to the East China Sea.

Mr Shen said American policy on China was determined by domestic politics. He reiterated criticism that Washington had broken bilateral agreements and undermined security in the region by selling advanced weapons to Taiwan.

Mr Shen confirmed that China's current military exercises would finish as scheduled: this seemed to mean they would end on March 20, shortly before the Taiwan elections on March 23.

Manila: Tang Jia Xuan, the Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, gave assurances yesterday on a visit to the Philippines that the missile tests and military exercises off Taiwan would not lead to war, according to a Philippine official involved in talks with him (Abby Tan writes).

Mr Tang was in Manila to discuss conflicting claims to South China Sea islands.

London students sing their defiance

By LEYLA LINTON

MORE than 700 Taiwanese gathered outside the Chinese Embassy in London yesterday to protest against Peking's military exercises in the Taiwan Strait.

Singing and waving flags, the demonstrators called for an end to missile firing. The embassy door remained shut when they tried to deliver a protest statement. The protesters, mostly students at British universities, beamed cheerfully despite the cold and even asked police if they could throw eggs at the embassy, but were advised that it was not a good idea.

Most of the demonstrators said their families did not intend to leave Taiwan. Nelson Chung, London bureau chief of a Taiwanese news agency, said: "The media seem to be more alarmed than people in Taiwan."

Jeffrey Chuang, an economics student at University College London, said: "I am for independence. I do not think

China has any right to claim Taiwan. We have confidence in our country and we know that China is not capable of doing anything to us."

Pei Ling Wu, 30, said: "I am worried about my family, but they do not want to leave Taiwan. They want to defend their country and fight to the end. If China continues to push us, independence is the only solution." Bill Lou, 45, said he was concerned about his family. "There will probably be a war, but you can never predict what China will do next." He said he did not want independence. "We are the same country, same race, same people, but we do want the election to go ahead."

Stella Hsu, 40, said that the exercises in the Taiwan Strait were intended to be an indirect threat to Hong Kong. "There is a Chinese proverb, 'Kill the chicken to warn the monkey'," she said.

Photograph, page 22

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Plea to vote for democracy

Taiwan President visits islanders to bolster morale

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI

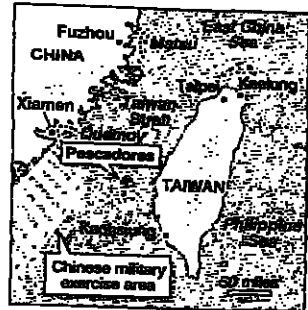
PRESIDENT Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan yesterday flew to an island only 40 miles from the area in which China is now conducting live ammunition exercises and told the startled inhabitants that they were not afraid.

Mr Lee descended on Penghu, one of the Pescadores, with a population of 90,000, in the afternoon, immediately after military jets had buzzed the airstrip to ensure his safety. Penghu lies in the middle of the Taiwan Strait.

Addressing a large rally, he compared himself to the native goddess Matsu, who gave her life for others. "Your President should love and protect the people like her," he said. "Matsu will not abandon Penghu, and I will not either."

Even though the Chinese manoeuvres were taking place not far away, "no one here is frightened. Next week, there is an election. You will be able to show that you live in a democratic Taiwan. By voting, you express democracy."

While the President was there, America announced that it was deploying two nuclear submarines to accompany its naval battle groups in



the area. The growing American presence is being criticised not only by Peking. Some Taiwanese fear the US is heightening the tension. Hau Pei-tsun, a former Premier, accused the President of internationalising the conflict. Mr Hau, an opposition party member, insists that Taiwan and China are one country. Li Yuan-tseh, president of Taiwan's Academia Sinica — the Chinese Academy of Sciences — suggested while visiting America that he would like to meet President Jiang Zemin of China to find a suitable title for Taiwan and begin scientific and cultural exchanges. This idea has been attacked by officials in Taipei, but many in Taiwanese academic circles

are in favour of steps towards a long-term resolution of the Taiwan dispute.

There is little doubt that while war fever has not gripped Taipei, its economic foundations are being shaken. The stock market rose yesterday, but only because the Government had pumped \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) into it after \$370 million was drained from banks, and stocks were sold by investors who are worried by the Chinese manoeuvres.

The market rise yesterday prompted accusations that some investors were making a profit out of the emergency. Others have been accused of profiting from rice and other staples which have almost sold out in some big stores.

Other rich families are being accused of sending their sons abroad before they can be conscripted. Every Taiwanese man must spend three years in the army and another 20 in the reserves.

One of those making such accusations said yesterday the only reason why more people had not gone abroad to dodge conscription was that few countries recognised the Taiwanese passport.

Cautious schools give early lesson on bombing threat

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY

IT WOULD be easy to mistake the mood in Taiwan. Watching primary schoolchildren taking part in air raid drills yesterday, ducking under desks or filing quickly to better shelter, was heart-rending. But every school on the island has an annual air raid drill and it was thought useful to have this year's now. Caution, certainly, but not a war scare.

At the airport, the young man examining my passport looked slightly surprised at the absence of a visa. In Peking, that would be a serious matter unless one could produce letters of invitation to conduct business. When I said I had been told it was not necessary, he waved me by. But not before I asked him if the situation was making him anxious. There was a pause before he replied: "Naturally. Many are."

But then in the taxi, speeding down the eight-lane highway from the airport, the driver responded to the same question with a 70-minute



A child covers eyes and ears in an air raid drill

monologue. Well, maybe a little uneasy. But it was all stupid. Taiwan is rich. Maybe not exactly a country, but rich and virtually independent. Everyone knows that. China is poor. But it has begun to develop and it needs Taiwan's investment. What "the Chi-

nese Communists" (the usual term in Taiwan for the mainland) really fear is Taiwan's democracy. Here, nobody can tell you what to do or think. A native Taiwanese, he agreed that under Chiang Kai-shek it had been the opposite, but never as bad as "over there."

The other big difference is how people work. In Taiwan, he said, everyone is up early and works all day. That is why it is rich. In China, people stood around a great deal.

What did the Americans want? He certainly did not want them to start a war. That would be a disaster for everyone, just when things were beginning to look better between the two countries. Gold sales are booming. Gold can be exchanged for US dollars, or in bars it is handy in bank vaults. Gold shops report trebled sales. Fashion shops do little business.

In the big city-centre hotels, there are few visitors. The waitresses spring into action at the sight of a customer and one says: "Thank you so much for giving us the business."

Gaddafi writes children's bestseller

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

COLONEL Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, bugebear of the Sinai anti-terror summit, emerged yesterday in an unlikely new role: author of a collection of children's stories that has become a bestseller in the Arab world.

Nearly 100,000 copies of *The Village is the Village, the Land is the Land and the Spaceman* have been sold in two weeks. All big bookshops in Cairo, the literary centre of the Arab world, reported that they were temporarily sold out of the collection, which is outselling all but the Koran and the sayings of Muhammad. The book is described by Egypt's leading paper, *al-Ahram*, as being the work of "an outstanding storyteller."

Iqbal Baraka, editor of the top Arabic women's magazine *Al-Nahdha*, said of Colonel Gaddafi, known previously in the literary world only for his turgidly written *Green Book* outlining his version of socialism: "For the first time, an Arab politician has transformed himself into an outstanding writer with his own distinguished style derived from his vision of the Arab reality."

The editor went on to gush: "The group of stories represents a new narrative form derived from traditional popular culture. Gaddafi wanted to send warning messages through the set of stories, and raise a cry against drowning ourselves in a sea of pollution, subjugations, myths and illusions. And all in a smooth style exuding lavishness."

Not all the critics have been overwhelmed by the work, which is acquiring a cult status at a time when the colonel's political influence in the Arab world is at its lowest ebb. "I consider this a bit of a joke," wrote Gaber Qarnoudi, a respected arts writer on the Arabic paper *al-Hayat*.



President Clinton meets the grandchildren of Yitzhak Rabin, the murdered Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday

Clinton backs Israeli expulsions

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday pledged \$100 million (\$65 million) to help Israel to fight terrorism as the Israelis announced they would expel Arab extremists linked to suicide bombings.

The US aid includes bomb detection equipment to be used in what Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, has described as an "all-out war" against Muslim militants.

"The forces supporting peace and security are stronger than those that pursue destruction," Mr Clinton said at a joint news conference with Mr Peres in Jerusalem.

"We must prove that. Whatever effort it takes, whatever time it takes, we must say to them, 'You will be tracked down, you will be booted out'." The assistance package was in addition to \$22 million

already granted to Israel to help prevent terrorist strikes.

At the same time, John Deutch, the CIA director, and Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, held negotiations with Israeli officials on a bilateral agreement to increase the amount of US intelligence shared with Israel.

Israel is seeking high-quality satellite photographs gathered by US intelligence. Mr Clinton is expected to sign such an agreement in Washington later this year.

President was in Israel for a two-day visit to show solidarity with the victims of the recent wave of suicide bombings by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, which left at least 61 people dead.

The attacks were in revenge for the assassination by Israeli secret agents of Yehya Ayyash, known as "the Engineer", the Hamas master bomb-maker. Yesterday Israel demolished Ayyash's family

home in the West Bank village of Rafat. Ayyash was blamed for a series of suicide bombings during 1994 and 1995 which began after a Jewish settler, Baruch Goldstein, gunned down 29 Muslim worshippers at a mosque in Hebron.

An unrepentant Mr Peres gave a warning of more demonstrations and said Israel would expel "people that have connections in any direct way with the suicide bombers."

Under pressure from Israel, Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has arrested 600 suspected Hamas activists in areas under his control in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But he and his advisers were strongly against any deportation of Hamas suspects arrested by the Israeli authorities.

unrest began 15 months ago. Bahrain has been hit by violence from mainly Shia Muslims, who are calling on the Sunni-led Government to restore the parliament that it suspended in 1975. (AFP)

Bahrain attack kills seven

Manama, Bahrain: A gang of masked men firebombed an Indian restaurant in a suburb of Manama yesterday, killing seven people, all of them Indians, in the worst attack since anti-government

unrest began 15 months ago. Bahrain has been hit by violence from mainly Shia Muslims, who are calling on the Sunni-led Government to restore the parliament that it suspended in 1975. (AFP)

unrest began 15 months ago. Bahrain has been hit by violence from mainly Shia Muslims, who are calling on the Sunni-led Government to restore the parliament that it suspended in 1975. (AFP)

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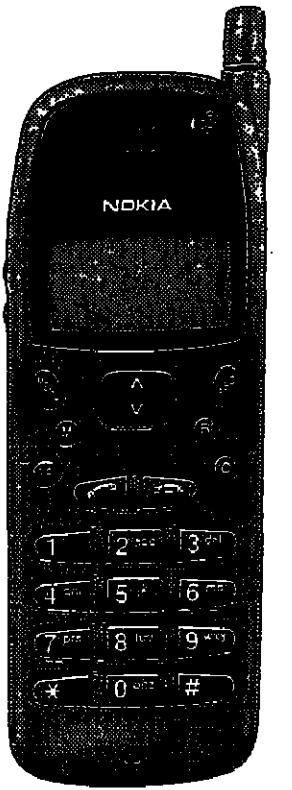
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Socialism and the American way



With a yawning gap between rich and poor, why does the United States reject left-wing ideals? **Magnus Linklater** on the growing chasm between Europeans and Americans

There is a New Yorker cartoon which shows a prosperous, expansive host at a dinner party leaning back in his chair and announcing: "Basically, every country wants to be Los Angeles." It neatly encapsulates the American view of the world. Los Angeles is the richest city in America, ergo everywhere else would like to emulate it. No doubts. Complete self-confidence. A deep-seated belief in the superiority of the American way of life. It is an attitude that can amuse or enrage the average European; it is charmingly naïve or crudely insensitive, depending on your point of view. According to Seymour Martin Lipset, whose new book, *American Exceptionalism* (W.W. Norton), explores the complexities of modern America, it is both: "American exceptionalism is a double-edged concept... we are the worst as well as the best, depending on which quality is being addressed."

America has the greatest income inequality, the highest crime rates, the most ferocious litigants, and the lowest level of electoral participation in the world. Americans champion

the rights of the individual, yet are rigid in their demands for political correctness: they are passionately egalitarian, but have never had a socialist movement; they have the highest rates of divorce and more single parents than anywhere else, yet they are dedicated Christians, placing the family at the heart of their beliefs.

American citizens are more willing to fight for a right or a cause than any other Western nation, but only if they see it as a symbol of good against evil. They combine a lacerating ability to criticise national failings, while retaining a moral certainty about their own values which is almost wholly absent from European life today. They are famously tolerant, yet extraordinarily bigoted when it comes to political or ethnic minorities. In 1940, Winston Churchill said he saw no need to outlaw the Communist Party because it was composed of Englishmen and he did not fear an English-

man. In America that was not good enough. Being an American is a basic commitment, not just a matter of birth; communists, who reject American values, are therefore un-American, alien to the native culture. When schoolchildren salute the national flag in their classrooms every morning, they are making more than a patriotic gesture; they are acknowledging an ideology.

And therein lies the first clue to the roots of American exceptionalism. From the early days of the revolution, being American was an act of faith. "It has been our fate as a nation," wrote the historian Richard Hofstadter, "not to have ideologies, but to be one."

G.K. Chesterton said: "America is the only nation in the world that is founded on a creed." The French historian, Alexis de Tocqueville, who first coined the word exceptionalism to describe the United States, recognised that its citizens had a belief in the



Even the very poorest Americans still believe opportunity is more important than an equal distribution of wealth

uniqueness of their country that placed it outside the boundaries of the European tradition. The founding fathers of the republic had no truck with the British traditions of class and hierarchy.

Since they had no history of feudalism and no ingrained class structure, they were able to instil the basic ingredients of American values: liberty, egalitarianism, individualism, populism and laissez faire.

In particular, they introduced a form of government designed to give the citizen complete freedom, while rendering the State as powerless as possible. The American Constitution, which has shown astonishing durability, established a divided form of government, with two Houses of Congress, which has been the bane of Presidents ever since.

This was quite deliberate. The individual, not central government, was to wield

power. Congressmen answered not to the executive, nor even to their own political party, but to the folks back home. And if the folks didn't like something, it didn't happen. Thus, when the American and Canadian Governments introduced a metric system a quarter of a century ago, Canada, with its respect for the State, quickly adopted it. America simply ignored it.

This adherence to the rights of the individual goes hand-in-hand with a basic belief in maximum opportunity. It was the early Puritans, as the sociologist Max Weber noted, who first encouraged the idea that everyone had the potential to succeed. "The spirit of capitalism," he wrote, "was

present long before the capitalist order." A Swiss theologian in 1850 commented that "the acquisition of riches is to them [the Americans] only a help towards higher spiritual and moral ends". This has become so deeply instilled that it takes precedence over any suggestions that government has a role to play in creating a fairer society.

A US poll conducted 50 years ago asked the question: "Should there be a law limiting the amount of money any individual is allowed to earn in a year?" Thirty-two per cent answered yes. Three years ago, at a time of mounting concern about inequality, the same question was asked. This time the percentage arguing in

favour of a limit had dropped to nine. Even the very poorest believed that maximum opportunity was more important than levelling the distribution of wealth.

That in turn leads to a strong belief in the work ethic. Americans still work harder and take shorter holidays than any other nation, including the Japanese. Output per employee is 40 per cent greater in the US than in Japan. According to *The Economist*, the average full-time American worker puts in more hours than either the Japanese or the Germans, and takes less time off for vacations. And yet the US continues to rank last among the leading economies when it comes to income distribution. "America has more equality of opportunity into the elites and less equality of results than the rest of the developed world," writes Professor Lipset.

So why, given this yawning gap between rich and poor, has socialism, the great equaliser, never caught on in the States? Marx and Engels believed that it was only a matter of time — as the working class educated itself, so the creed would spread. It never did.

Professor Lipset argues that because there was no tradition of feudalism, no class system to rebel against, Americans remained relentlessly bourgeois. The ambitions of the individual citizen transcended the need for organised socialism. One left-wing commentator, Leon Samson, wrote: "Americanism, the official ideology of the society, became a kind of substitute socialism... The idea that everyone can be a capitalist is... a socialist idea of capitalism."

That is why America lags so far behind every country in Europe when it comes to basic provisions for health and welfare — not because the Government cannot afford it, but because the average citizen still instinctively rejects state interference.

So why then, given the apparent instability of this crazed giant of a country, burdened by a massive financial deficit, racially divided, crime-ridden and socially crumbling, is America not lurching towards disaster? The answer is that, despite everything, it still has a level of confidence in itself and its own ability which the average European finds hard to comprehend.

What other country could carry out a survey (1994) in which a staggering 81 per cent, from richest to poorest, concluded: "I am optimistic about my personal future", and in which three quarters of those polled went on to endorse that corny, but still deeply held, belief: "In America if you work hard you can be anything you want to be."

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The cost of keeping your hair

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It was quite by chance that minoxidil, a treatment for high blood pressure, was found to encourage the growth of hair. After these early reports, Upjohn, the drug company which makes the product, commissioned a huge study in America to discover how consistently minoxidil produced the reaction, and for whom it worked best.

Their work showed that minoxidil helped some male patients, particularly those who were in the process of losing their hair. It seemed to stabilise the loss and prevent any more. Overall, while minimal regrowth of hair was seen in nearly a quarter of patients, moderate regrowth was seen in only 8 per cent, and in fewer than 1 per cent could it be described as dense. Although fewer than 300 women took part in the research, they appeared to respond better than men.

In order to benefit you have to apply the material twice a day, every day. If the treatment is stopped the hair that has regrown will fall out within three to four months. It is not cheap — a minimum course of treatment is four months at £24.95 a month before any improvement can be expected, and most people who try it for this length of time could be disappointed.



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The presenter of Desert Island Discs says she was right to ask Gordon Brown about his sexuality

Sue, sex and that desert island



Sue Lawley: "I'm not a subtle person, I don't go in for subterfuge." Photograph by Chris Harris

To the cry of the seagulls and the emotive sounds of Eric Coates's *By The Sleepy Lagoon*, we are lulled into the comforting, familiar world of *Desert Island Discs*.

This morning Sue Lawley is recording another edition. Across the green baize table in studio B16 will be a famous man who has never married. He is Dickie Bird, the much-loved cricket umpire. We shall have to wait some weeks to discover whether "sex-obsessed" Sue asks Dickie about being wedded only to cricket.

But let us recap on what Sue Lawley actually asked Gordon Brown in that contentious edition of the programme, and how he responded — because this whole rumpus hinges on a misquotation.

On March 3, the day the programme first went out, *The Independent* on Sunday ran a story headed "Gordon explains why there's no Mrs Brown" alleging that Sue Lawley had got "extraordinarily personal" with the Shadow Chancellor.

For the record, this is what was said. Sue asked whether at 45, he could understand people's curiosity. "People want to know whether you're gay or whether there's some flaw in your personality that you haven't made a relationship. You may feel: 'Look, I don't have to answer these questions,' but do you perhaps accept that as a public person it's a price you have to pay?"

Mr Brown responded perfectly equably: "I don't mind answering these questions."

But the *Independent* story alleged: "At this point Mr Brown snaps back. 'Look, I don't have to answer these questions.'" Exactly the reverse of what happened. Every newspaper has since recycled that misquotation, creating a false picture of a huffy Mr Brown. In fact, he made no objection and they parted on amicable terms.

When Lawley had gone on to ask Brown, do people have the right to know? he replied: "Yes, I think people have got a right to know. I'm standing as a candidate in an election. I'm asking people to support me, they want to know what sort of person I am."

The only message she has had since, from Gordon Brown's office, was about where the rogue misquotation came from. But the misquoting is only one aspect. The other is the public's feelings about such matters: are interviewers entitled to ask single persons the reason for their unmarried state?

Public response came in odd fits and starts. The BBC had three or four calls that Sunday. Two days later, there were suddenly 50 calls. This was strange. John Birt himself thought it remarkable. Could they have been organised? Lawley cannot say, "but it was striking, and extremely unusual".

Meanwhile, *Feedback* had precisely 12 letters, enough for her to

be invited on to the programme to answer criticisms that she was "insistent" and "haranguing", that she favoured Tory politicians over Labour ones, and that she was "turning *Desert Island Discs* into an imitation *Today*". You can hear her response on this morning's *Feedback* at 9.45.

Over tea, after the *Feedback* recording, she told me how she had defended herself. "I replied that we live in the second half of the 1990s; that the programme is 54 years old and that it had to gently move along with the times, and while very aware of the Radio 4 audience, one had sometimes to address issues which they might not find comfortable."

As Brown himself said to Lawley on the programme, profile-writers — usually female — invariably ask him about his bachelor state. He is used to it. Lawley did not forewarn him; she does not forewarn "practised and sophisticated interviewees" about questions.

As it happened, while waiting for Miss Lawley in the Broadcasting House foyer, I ran into Brian Sewell, the scourge of the modern art establishment. Mr Sewell, with his wondrous affectation of manner and speech, is a national treasure, a work of art in himself, who only the previous evening had been heard on Radio 4 giving his opinion that the graffiti artist Sutherland should be shot.

Mr Sewell reminded me that when he was on the desert island, Miss Lawley had brought up his own unmarried state (in the context of his friendship with Anthony Blunt). Neither he nor she could remember what his answer had been. He recalled having a momentary frisson of surprise: "But I think it is an entirely proper question, however."

Lawley agrees. "I did talk to a Labour colleague and friend of Gordon Brown's about what I should ask him, and he said: 'I do think you should ask him about not being married.' I believe it is true, if not a particularly palatable truth, that people like him are speculated about. I didn't feel we knew much about him: and there was the contradiction: the gloomy Celt, who now sat opposite me, smiling and laughing. I found that at least fresh and new."

"I don't think it was the greatest interview ever — I think it merely fleshed out Gordon Brown a bit more."

Any long-running Radio 4 programme becomes an institution, guarded by the most opinionated and conservative listeners in the land. Diana Plomley, keeper of her late husband's flame, comments that Sue has an "extraordinary obsession" with people's sex lives, while her husband was "dignified and gentlemanly". But as John Tusa wrote this week, in Lawley's

defence: "Why should Sue Lawley be chained to an interviewing style and philosophy devised by someone else? On many occasions Plomley's mannered formalism had me screaming at the set."

As Lawley points out, *Desert Island Discs* is a biographical interview. Personal relationships are bound to come up. "I don't feel I ask deeply offensive or totally irrelevant, prurient questions; I think carefully about what is right and proper to ask; I do rehearse my questions. And we don't have many dissatisfied customers."

Nobody is forced, after all, to say yes to *Desert Island Discs*. Ted Hughes has always refused. So has Mick Jagger.

"When someone agrees to be on, they are giving you the licence to ask them about their lives, in the context of music, often emotive and nostalgic. They usually accept because they know they will get fair treatment; they can place the highlights in context, and shed some light and shade on their lives. And if they object to anything we will cut it out."

Because the format is so friendly, people find themselves freely volunteering information. A.S. Byatt was particularly forthcoming — angry mother, silent father, lonely school days, sibling rivalry, death of son.

Like everyone in the interviewing business, Lawley has to make a judgment each time about what might be asked without making the subject unhappy or herself uncomfortable. She treads a delicate line between interesting questions and keeping the Radio 4 listeners happy. Some of her most candid subjects have been elderly ladies — notably Chilli Bouchier recently, and the marvellous Kathleen Hale, who confessed at 96 what a bore her husband had been.

Lawley once told me: "I'm not a subtle person, I don't go in for subterfuge, I'm a spade-a-spade person. That's why I asked Edward Heath if he was ever lonely. Other ex-Prime Ministers had wives to go back to; who did he have? Of course he didn't quite answer, people never do, but the way that they react lifts the lid."

But she would not have asked Mr Heath about his sexuality. "It's a generational thing. I asked him whether he felt the lack of a woman at his side. I asked him who ironed his shirts. He was appalled at the idea that he might ever have wielded an iron himself." But Mr Heath was not offended. Miss Lawley has since been a lunch guest at his house in Salisbury.

"I don't think personal lives are always fair game, unless relevant. Kenny Everett, for instance, was very funny about admitting to his

father, a macho tugboat captain on Merseyside, that he preferred men to women. And after all, he had Aids at the time: it was impossible not to talk about it."

With politicians, she has to steer them away from rewriting their own rose-tinted histories, or making political points. David Mellor got off extremely lightly, having recorded his programme — full of self-congratulatory stuff about musical knowledge — just before the Antonia de Sancha story broke. Anyway, nobody is under oath to answer her questions; and if they demur, that is interesting too.

Julian Barnes, when asked if he was on speaking terms with Martin Amis again, said firmly: "I think that's private business."

This week the *Daily Mail* listed "the 15 questions Sue won't answer" — implying that she would not care to be the bitter bit. On the contrary, Miss Lawley went cheerfully through them all with me — the lover she lived with in Bristol University days, the first marriage, two children now aged 16 and 20, divorce, falling madly in love "with a man from the tourist trade" (she sang this to the tune of *She's Leaving Home*).

"And why did I not ask Fergie if she was pregnant, the question on everybody's lips? Well it wasn't on my lips. I wouldn't dream of asking her that: the fact that she announced her pregnancy two days later was just my bad luck."

As for: "Were those my legs in the opening titles of my TV programme?" They were not my own legs. I hated those titles; I didn't have anything to do with them, in concept or creation. But in the interest of publicity for the programme, I kept them guessing.

I am always struck, not only by Lawley's mastery of her briefs (I have seen her in her tidy study, faced with piles of books and cuttings) but by her permanently increased, groomed aura. I was there once when a batch of designer suits arrived from Jeeves the cleaners. "I have to look finished," she says. "It's a bore, but I'm afraid it does matter what women look like on the screen." Her own luxury, when cast away on the island herself, was an ironing board and iron.

What about the killer question, that Miss Lawley, so pin-neat in person and at home, is an obsessive, whose hobby is "polishing knuckles"? "This very day," she said, "I have deleted that from my *Who's Who* entry. It was just a joke. Hugh [her husband, the head of BBC Worldwide] and I thought up, in the days when we all had aluminium knuckles that got very spattered, and I was constantly wiping ours."

Then she obligingly posed for our photographer, showing her famous legs without demur in the freezing cold, and raced back to Television Centre, the complete pro.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



Is a stiff upper lip the best way to handle grief?

What is the best way to handle your grief when someone you care deeply about has just died? All those trying to comfort and support the bereaved families of Dunblane will want to know the answer.

A common belief about bereavement is that you should express all those feelings of rage, despair or sadness, since bottling them up will not only lead to emotional problems in the future but might easily make you ill.

But is that true? Not according to recent research which suggests that the old-fashioned stiff-upper-lip approach, far from being a psychological disaster, can actually be effective. "Beginning with Freud, many therapists have predicted dire consequences from emotional avoidance," says Dr George Bonanno of the Catholic University of America.

Jerome Burne on research that suggests that those who keep a lid on their emotions cope better with bereavement than those who get it off their chest

"Coping with grief by minimising your awareness of unpleasant emotions has even been regarded as pathological," he writes in the latest issue of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Dr Bonanno measured the feelings and behaviour of 42 recently bereaved people with tests and questionnaires and found that those who kept a lid on their feelings coped with the effects of grief better than those who got it off their chest. "One of our problems we had to overcome was how to mea-

'People believe bottling up feelings is harmful'

sure emotional avoidance," he says. "After all, you can't simply ask someone about the things they are repressing because the whole point about repression is that you don't acknowledge that you are doing it."

Instead, six months after the death, he asked his subjects to reminisce for 18 minutes about their loved one while he measured their heart rate. Those who were keeping a stiff upper lip would talk in calm, quiet tones but the monitors gave them away — underneath

their hearts were racing. Afterwards, however, they generally denied suffering from any of the classic signs of severe grief, such as feeling life had come to a standstill, finding it difficult to get rid of the deceased's things or being unusually irritable.

Another test at 14 months showed that not only were the repressors reporting even fewer prolonged grief symptoms but they were not even showing the psychosomatic symptoms that therapists would have predicted. On

'We know that letting it all out isn't enough'

the other hand, those who were "working through" their grief said that they still felt a lot of negative emotion and had much more physical symptoms. So what is going on? Dr Bonanno believes it might be connected with the way we tend to synchronise our physical rhythms with those we live with. A leading bereavement psychiatrist and president of the charity Cruse — Bereavement Care, Colin Murray Parkes, is not surprised by these findings. "Therapists have known

for some time that 'letting it all out' isn't nearly enough, although I think psychoanalysts are still very keen on it."

Other research backs up Dr Bonanno's work. One recent study found that, overall, encouraging bereaved people to express their feelings was no more effective than simply giving them practical advice in how to replan their lives, although there was a gender difference.

"Men got rather more from expressing their emotions while women got more out of help with restructuring their thoughts and forward planning."

"If avoiding unpleasant emotions in bereavement is no bad thing," says Dr Bonanno, "then current systems that encourage a 'working through' of the emotional meaning of loss may actually make things worse."

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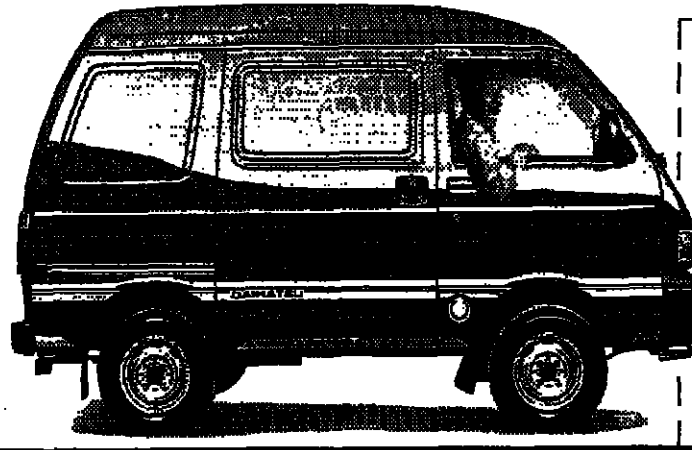
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Philip Howard



Lean and hungry looks are in fashion — but this talk of obesity is dangerous

It is a fictitious (mis)use, a fad and a fashion. The World Health Organisation's obesity task force, launched this week, is just another attempt by the fitness fanatics to make an occupation for themselves and terrorise the feeble-minded. Their statistics, brewed like hot fudge dripping off a sundae to make our flab creep, are absurd. For instance, these "nutrition experts" calculate that on current trends, the entire population of the United States will soon be obese. This calculation depends entirely on their (arbitrary) definition of obesity. The only sensible definition, except for those who are sick and need their lips sewn up, is about 20 lb fatter than the weight of the calculator. For fat is an opinion, not a measurement.

In their mad pursuit of eternal youth, Americans have made a virtue of skeletons showing through a clinging film of burnt skin. Their celebrities look as sexless as any other sufferers from malnutrition. Their joggers pound miserably through the parks, pushing their infants in racing-chairs. It will serve them right when the infants grow up sedentary and jolly. As David Hume wrote: "I cannot but bless the memory of Julius Caesar, for the great esteem he expressed for fat men, and his aversion to lean ones."

For the British are more sensible than the Americans, as well as thinner, if you want to play the meaningless game of national obesity averages. Our national personification of John Bull is bluff, kind-hearted and bull-headed, with a bottom of good sense like Sam Johnson's. The French insults for us as Rosbifs and Poudings suggest stodgy wits but imply healthy bodies. To the popular eye, our most popular monarch by far is Henry VIII, for his fuller figure as much as his many wives. In spite of his popular image, Bluff King Hal was a mean old monster, though he was "overweight" to judge from Holbein and his suits of armour.

The value given to fatness varies between countries, periods and civilisations as well as between endomorphs, ectomorphs and mesomorphs. But to judge from their statues and paintings, early societies valued fat as embodying fertility, prosperity and wealth. Why else would the author of Proverbs have declared, "He that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat"? With the Venus de Milo's charms, who needs arms? And such artists as Lely (with his Restoration beauties bursting out of their bodices), Matthew Smith (and his jolly pink ladies) and Lucian Freud (who sees the flesh beneath the skin) are more to normal taste than the beanpoles of Giacometti or the skinnies of Schiele. If criticism is allowed of Klimt (which I ban), it is that his women look as though they are going to Weight Watchers, but, mercifully, not very conscientiously.

And by Pantagruel and Obelisk (of the slipped chest), the well-built hero is one of the oldest of literary stereotypes. He waddles more solidly through our imaginations than such other stock characters of romance as the lovelorn swain, the plump but unattainable maiden, the lonely wanderer on his impossible quest, and the slippery trickster. You can trace him back to the world before Christianity, where comedians and painters would have been lost without their favourite character of the fat, drunken and not very clever hero/god, Heracles. This gross fat man — as fat as butter — is a universal representative who eats and drinks and lusts, with jests as coarse and bitter-sweet as Falstaff's.

Few fictional creatures have had so long a shelf-life as Friar Tuck. Achilles has faded from popular memory. Alas, dust has closed Helen's eye, though I have it on good authority that she was built more on the lines of Dawn French than Kate Moss. But Friar Tuck waddles on in the latest films: plump, booby, a little dangerous, but with a heart of gold thumping at high pressure beneath a yard of blubber. Those little circular spectacles perched on the end of the hero's red nose and the well-filled, old-fashioned knickerbockers belted to Pickwick. And his bursting cheerful trousers contain (only just) the bottom of Billy Bunter.

The obesity task force may sound like a naval expedition, but it is sailing into the teeth of literature, history, national character, humour and common sense.



Masters from Germany

Yet again, the shadow of the Holocaust throws its darkness upon the dead and the living. Once again the earth stirs, hell breathes its poisons, goodness shines, and the *Times* headline tells it all: "Daughter hunts for painting of father who died under Nazis". Here is the story:

Lilly Gill, 73, was 15 when she made a dramatic escape from Czechoslovakia to Britain with her younger sister. Their father, who went into hiding after helping his daughters to flee, was dragged from his bed in the early hours by Nazi troops rounding up Jews.

Mrs Gill says: "My father, unable to escape from Prague where my parents had fled from Germany, died in a concentration camp. I believe it was at Theresienstadt." Her mother, who was not Jewish, was arrested for trying to protect her husband, but was eventually released. Later she received a curt official note: "Your husband died in 1940."

You can feel the chill, can you not? Five words of unimaginable evil, and look at it how you will, it says that evil rules the world, does it not, and there is nothing else? Nothing? Nothing? But there was something, wasn't there?

We made a miraculous escape by train. It was a precarious journey. The train stopped on the way. Nazi officials searched everything. We hadn't got proper passports. Our documents were invalid. Tessa talked to the Nazi official. One of the officials looked at the passports and disappeared with them. He looked grim. We thought we would be arrested. But he returned them. Nothing was said. I think he did it as an act of mercy.

And the picture? Mrs Gill now seeks it high and low, and well she might, for it is a picture of a child prodigy — which Mrs Gill's father was — at the piano. This was in 1891, when Nazis did not exist and Mrs Gill's father had glowing write-ups, such as "The boy gave an outstanding performance of his skill on the piano. The audience was captivated and gave him tremendous applause."

Little did the infant Levin know, when he weekly haunted the Albert Hall and from the very top gallery (one shilling) heard again and again that great violinist Bronislaw Huberman, accompanied by Leopold Spielmann, the man who was to be Mrs Gill's father, and who died in the Holocaust.

Repeat those words: "Your husband died in 1940", and if you want to cross yourself don't be shy.

Descendants of victims and war criminals alike are cursed with the Nazi legacy — and so, of course, is Wagner

Now come with me to Oxford: surely, a mere glance at the dreaming spires will show that no such memories could be found, nor such horrors dug up there. But wait: what stir do I see and hear: can it be something connected with the most terrible evil mankind has yet produced? And at Oxford? Alas, yes.

The stir begins like this. A new chair has been brought into Oxford, the Flick Chair of European Thought, and the first holder of the Chair is Professor John W. Burrow. The Chair was made possible by a very substantial gift to the University: some £350,000. But the ice, it seems, was very thin — very thin indeed. Because, you see, the bare words "Flick Chair" are enough to have the dreaming spires collapsing, and even collapsing over the £350,000; for Friedrich Flick was one of the most evil men in the horror of the Holocaust.

Friedrich Flick was a giant maker of things, but when Hitler called, Flick came to the salute and put his evil genius at the feet of Hitler. Nor was he reluctant to do so: he used hundreds of thousands of slave labourers and Hitler relied on him. Indeed after the war he was indicted at the Nuremberg trials, and served time in prison.

And, you see, it would be somewhat embarrassing if Oxford had a Chair of Murderous Evil — nor, of course, would Oxford do such a thing. So what is to be done? Oxford is a delicate place, is it not? Well, its delicacy came to the rescue in this case. No longer will anyone call the Chair of European Thought the Flick Chair: from now on, it will be called the Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick Chair. And if you think that a mere trading of names would send all the participants home, you must realise that there is something more to come. The evil Flick must be very clearly distinguished from Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick, because, you see, Dr Gert-Rudolph Flick is the grandson of the evil Flick.

And we are back yet again to the terrible truth: good men can come from the loins of bad ones, and frequently do. Now do you know why I say — and say with pain, anger, weariness and unbelief — that I have repeatedly asked (but heard no answer) my question: "Great God, when will that tap stop dripping?"

Because I must now offend. These tiny embarrassments of Oxford are not particularly amusing, and for some the wounds have yet to close. In the delicate argument that went on, Ben Helfgott, who survived the Theresienstadt concentration camp, said wisely that the Flick money was soaked in blood but Dr Flick bore no personal guilt.

Of course not; but as the Oxford argument went on, it was plain that some could not come to terms with the present, so terrible was the past. Mr Helfgott says that "There are still people today who will not listen to anything tarnished by Nazism. Others feel you have to get on with things as they are."

Now I am not such a fool or knave as to wave away those people who say that they will not listen to Wagner. Here, I am walking on hot coals, but I cannot and will not run away from the argument.

Yes, Richard Wagner was an anti-Semite. So was Dostoevsky. And many more noble figures in the arts. What is the difference? Why is the difference so great that some music-lovers will not listen to his work?

To start with, I heard *Tristan and Isolde* a few days ago, at the ENO. It is one of the greatest works of art ever made. It was made by an anti-Semite, but if you had never discovered who wrote it — better still, never discovered that the writer was an anti-Semite — you would agree that it is a masterpiece of music, unless, of course, you don't like it.

But even then your dislike would not be because of anti-Semitism, for that evil would have never contaminated your feelings. Some people claim that they can hear anti-Semitism in the music: that is nonsense. No, Beckmesser is not an anti-Semite, and if you heard *The Mastersingers* for the first time, without any background, you would never think of anti-Semitism. So where does this strange and terrible mystery break out?

First, Hitler was a devoted Wagnerian. Second, Hitler murdered the Jews. It therefore follows that I, being a devoted Wagnerian, am also a murderer of Jews. So are most of the leading conductors, who are not only murderers but Jewish murderers, these being presumably murderers ready to deal with any Jews left over. I plead not guilty, and so do the conductors. We must, we must, we MUST distinguish between a bad man doing bad things, and a bad man doing ordinary things.

It is true that almost all of the family of Richard Wagner, from his birth (probably illegitimate — the argument continues) to the youngest member of the clan, are, and always have been, such as to bring a shudder through any ordinary person's body. As if that were not sufficient, they are always quarrelling — to such an extent that it is a miracle that nobody in that gang has yet been murdered. (They make up for it with regular and frequent banishments.) But if you knew nothing at all of that, and just went into an opera house with a programme, a translation and a surtitle, you would never guess either that the Wagners are awful, or that that wonderful music was written by an awful man.

In my daydreams I sometimes wonder what Mozart would make of Wagner. I believe that he would shake his head and get on with his work. But what would Beethoven say? I think he would listen, and even say that in years to come this music will hold the world in amazement.

I have wandered, but if I have to defend Wagner (Wagner's music I mean — no one could actually defend Wagner the man), I would argue — I do argue — that there is nothing evil in Wagner's music, and there is nothing evil in Hitler's listening to music.

For those who suffered at the hands of evil, and thus cannot bear to hear Wagner's music, I ask pardon. Remember, though, that one day Wagner will be a forgotten name, but his music is eternal.

Bernard Levin

Staggering on

SOCIALISTS were muttering darkly into their beer tankards last night after hearing that the falling left-wing weekly the *New Statesman* & Society has appointed a new Editor. The man chosen to pull the journal back from the abyss is Ian Hargreaves, 44, who signally failed to rescue *The Independent* when he edited that. Hargreaves is said to have asked for a far from socialist salary of at least £140,000, though his bearded predecessor Steve Platt earned less than a third of that amount. He was apparently persuaded by the paper's new owner, Geoffrey Robinson, the millionaire Labour MP, to lower



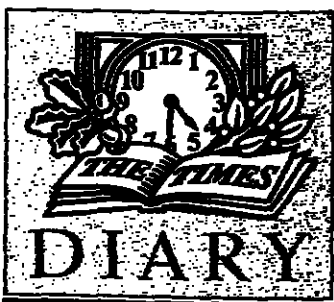
Hargreaves: promotion

his sights, but there are still suspicions that he is getting a six-figure salary.

New *Statesman* loyalists complain that Hargreaves was the safe choice, who will toe the Labour Party line in the run-up to the general election. "It is nothing short of a political appointment on behalf of new Labour," said one. Nonsense, retorted Geoffrey Robinson's representative: "This is not a political appointment. *The Independent* was quite critical of Labour policy." But Tariq Ali, the left-wing commentator, is appalled: "It's a bad appointment. The magazine could really die a death if it becomes a Labour front-bench magazine."

Along with many influential readers, all favoured another candidate, Francis Wheen. And the publisher Carmen Calli appears to agree with him: "I don't know Hargreaves, which is a drawback, but I certainly would have preferred Francis Wheen." A drawback for him, or for her?

● The Shadow Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, is a keen racer — so keen, in fact, that at Cheltenham yesterday, he squeezed aboard the racecourse shuttle bus



and plunked himself in a seat reserved for elderly or handicapped persons. Oblivious to the pressing throng, he buried his head in the Racing Post, no doubt hoping to emulate his luck at the Ayr Gold Cup, where his horse romped home first.

Merry dance

BELLS are tinkling, tongues are wagging. The merry world of morris dancing has been beset by trouble in Wales, where certain members of Aberystwyth council consider morris dancers too English. At a council meeting to discuss the summer entertainments programme for the promenade, there were calls for them to be banned.

Morris men seethed, and only after an ugly display of stick-waving were they reinstated. A

troupe of the twinkling-toed prancers will now entertain holiday-makers as usual.

Insider job?

HAVE our beloved Eurocrats been at the bottle? They have just awarded a special "quality cider mark" to Herefordshire, a county rather less known for its cider than Herefordshire.

Herefordshire folk are understandably upset, not least because the howler means that Hereford cider can theoretically now be produced 150 miles to the east.



"The pre-Cruff's tension brings me out in spots"

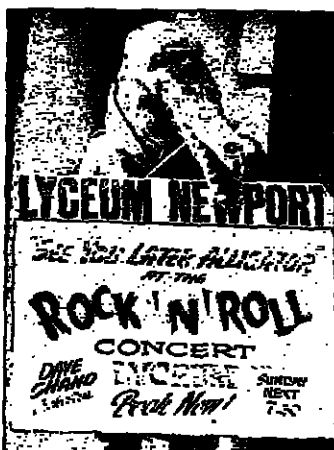
● One unexpected effect of German reunification has been felt by the field hamster. Since 1990, modern machinery and EU agricultural policy have been endangering the beasties, which are larger cousins of the hamsters sold as pets. New combine-harvesters are so efficient they leave no grain for the hamsters to store for the winter. The state of Saxony-Anhalt has offered farmers £350 per hectare to practise "hamster appropriate agriculture".

Swine favour

THE PULL of the pig pen will never be the same. Porks at Marwell Zoo near Winchester were treated to aromatherapy massages with essential oils yesterday, provided by masseuses from the Holistic Institute of Aromatherapy and Stress Management. The zoo is now considering making the treatment a regular feature of the pigs' day.

Allegedly

THE LUDICROUS comic Derek Nimmo has made a bold claim. He says in *The Stage* this week that he was behind the first rock band in Britain, Dave Shand and his Rock and Roll Band. Nimmo's role in the ensemble



Derek the crock-rocker

was to dress up in an alligator suit to promote the band, which was formed in 1956 on the back of Bill Haley's film *Rock Around the Clock*, which featured the song See You Later Alligator. Nimmo wore the suit with a sandwich board bearing the slogan "See You Later Alligator".

"It caused quite a stir," he remembers. "One expectant mother fainted, a bull mastiff took a bite at my behind, and people kept on trying to lift the jaws of the alligator to feed me chips."

P.H.S

How the lottery robs us

This regressive tax mocks thrift, says

Tim Congdon

What is the right way to characterise an investment which is certain to convert £100 million into less than a penny in a year? The spectrum of descriptions might start at "suicidal" and culminate in "organised cheating" or "fraud". In any rational society, the Government ought surely to ban such a product. If that cannot be done, Parliament might at least consider restrictions on marketing and impose a financial "health warning".

Unhappily, Britain today is not a rational society. It has a product which in a 12-month period will on average take away 99.999999999 per cent of the initial sum committed to it by a member of the public. It will have this result deliberately, precisely and expressly. Moreover, the product is not deplored by leading politicians and parliamentarians. On the contrary, it was created by the Government, has fortnightly official blessing, is promoted with ridiculous hoopla by Cabinet ministers. It is also advertised widely and aggressively on television, in newspapers and in thousands of retail outlets.

The product is called the National Lottery. The claim that it converts £100 million into less than a penny in under a year may sound extraordinary, but the mathematics are simple. Under the terms of its licence, Camelot, the Lottery organiser, has to redistribute 50.6 per cent of the stake money back to the punters. Suppose that we take all the punters together, representing a sample of the Great British Public and that this sample puts £100 million into the lottery in the first week of January. Let us also suppose that the GBP decides to put no more money in at all. What will it have left at the start of the following year?

In the second week, the GBP will have £50.6 million (50.6 per cent of £100 million); in the third week it will have a little more than £25.6 million (50.6 per cent of £50.6 million); and so on. The calculation is £100 million x 0.506 to the power of 51, which is less than a penny. By participating in the National Lottery, and constantly reinvesting its winnings, the GBP has made itself poorer by almost the full £100 million.

Supporters of the lottery might protest that it was never intended as an investment product, and is instead only a game. People participate in all sorts of activities which will, on average, make them poorer, such as bingo, the pools and betting on the horses. If people are allowed in a free society to gamble (and so, in effect, to cheat themselves), what is wrong with the National Lottery?

Why shouldn't the Government behave like the croupier in a casino? The arithmetic demonstrates, quite plainly, that the lottery is nothing more than disguised taxation. But unlike most taxation, it is voluntary. The payment of the tax may even, for some of the punters, be enjoyable. For a few delicious days each week they can dream about possible winnings, however tiny the chance of receiving anything worthwhile. So why stop this harmless fun?

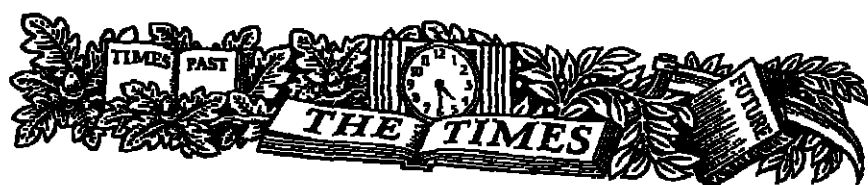
The trouble is that the Government is giving out all the wrong signals. It is encouraging people to behave in ways contrary to their own best interests and to the interests of the society in which they live. In its Thatcherite period, the Government was supposed to believe in the ancient virtues of thrift and hard work, and to strengthen self-reliance. The National Lottery mocks and negates these virtues, and politicises the distribution of rewards.

It mocks thrift by tempting the financially naïve to throw away a few pounds a week, or sometimes quite large sums of money, into something where the returns are almost certain to be negative. It negates the ideal of hard work, by offering up the slim chance of a huge fortune for doing nothing. Meanwhile, the money collected for worthy causes is distributed by a committee (or rather many committees) of the great and the good, instead of by market forces which reflect people's true preferences.

There is something particularly anomalous about the Government's decision to introduce the lottery, which is designed to make the British people poorer, at just the time that it is tightening the regulation of excellent and long-established financial institutions, such as the life insurance companies, which have been enriching us for many decades. If a financial institution were to propose a product as misconceived and ruinous to savers as the National Lottery, it would naturally be subject — under the Financial Services Act of 1986 — to a massive fine from its regulators. But lottery tickets, not being "securities" or "futures contracts", cannot be referred to the Securities and Futures Association. With public policy in this sort of disarray, is it any surprise that Britain has one of the lowest personal savings rates in the industrial world?

The ultimate wickedness is that some of the most eager participants in the National Lottery are households living on social security benefits. They have little or no incentive to seek a job because they will lose benefit almost pound for pound of extra income from work; and they have no incentive to save small amounts over long periods of time, because if they have assets beyond a certain level, they again disqualify themselves from benefits. Instead they squander money on lottery tickets.

The National Lottery is disguised taxation, it redistributes from the poor to the rich, it undermines thrift and hard work, and it trivialises the State. It must be abolished.



AFTER DUNBLANE

The case for banning handguns seems compelling

In the aftermath of the Dunblane killings there is an understandable demand for something, anything, to be done that some small good may come from a great evil. Action makes grief easier to bear and there is the hope that lessons may be learnt which would make another such horror less likely. The feeling that laws should be changed, liberties reviewed, after one incident, no matter how unspeakable, can lead to inappropriate action being taken. But it does seem, even at this early stage, that measures can be considered in the light of the Dunblane murders which could make our society feel more secure.

One of the first considerations should be how to prevent a community's sense of loss turning to anger. As Magnus Linklater reports on our front page, for families attempting to cope with the enormity of this tragedy the perception that they are being kept in the dark about details is hard to bear. Knowing does not lead to forgiving, let alone understanding. But it must be worth exploring how those who suffer might be reassured that nothing they should know is being hidden from them. Otherwise bitterness and bewilderment may delay the process of healing.

In considering what practical, preventative measures may be taken, it is worth remembering that no society can ever insulate its people from the random violence of the unbalanced. Methods of improving security in schools are already being considered after the murder of Philip Lawrence last December. Some, such as better surveillance or alarm systems, may deserve attention. But it would be wrong to impinge on the innocence of the young by turning their playgrounds into compounds and making them prisoners of their parents' worst fears. Schools in Britain, and Scotland especially, thrive on an open relationship with their communities. That openness should not lightly be curtailed.

The freedom that has to be limited is not

that of children, but that of adults to own guns. It is hard to see why private citizens should be allowed to own handguns. There are good reasons why some citizens, in specific circumstances, should be permitted to possess certain weapons. The farmer will always need his shotgun to control vermin. Game shooting and stalking are vital parts of the rural economy and traditional relaxations of country-dwellers. The use of sporting guns is governed by a cultural code that teaches a wary respect for all weaponry as well as legal regulation.

Handguns are, however, wholly different. They are designed to kill human beings, not animals. Pistol-shooting is a pursuit altogether more clinical and alien to our society than grouse-shooting. The vast majority of gun club members are innocent enthusiasts but the nature of their weapons and the tone of their magazines attract those with an unhealthy interest in violence.

Handguns, by their nature, are easier to steal and conceal than rifles or shotguns. The morbid and inadequate have seen these ugly devices celebrated as masculine talismans in popular culture. Yet in a civilised society they should have no practical place except on the battlefield or in a police officer's holster.

Those who wish to see them in private hands have a shaky case. Sport is no defence. Target-shooting could be done on a range with laser or electronic devices. Handgun-owners may protest that regulation is already tight and point out that most gun crime in this country is committed with illegal firearms. But regulation did not stop Thomas Hamilton. A ban would make it more difficult for the isolated obsessive to acquire a gun as well as impeding the organised criminal. *The Times* is instinctively wary of hasty legislation, never anxious to see liberties curtailed. Grief may lend urgency to the case, but, after calm reflection, the arguments for a ban on the private use of handguns now seem compelling.

L'ETAT-NATION

A certain idea of Europe

The spiritual followers of General de Gaulle define their political faith by saying that they hold a "certain idea of France". This week the French Government has been bringing more closely into focus a certain Gaullist idea of the EU ahead of the inter-governmental conference on the Maastricht treaty which opens at the end of this month. The speeches by the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, and by his European Affairs Minister, Michel Barnier, contained specific proposals of which any British government would be wary. But the underlying belief in the nation state is close to the thinking of the British White Paper released this week.

Much diplomatic energy is expended in Europe nowadays to disguise a stark philosophical gulf which has opened in the debate about the continent's future. A majority among the German, Belgian, Dutch and Luxembourg political classes argue that the EU should move towards a federal future because the traditional nation state cannot cope with the challenges of the 21st century. In a 1994 policy paper which still colours the German agenda for renegotiating Maastricht, two leading German Christian Democrats criticised France's ambivalence over federalism. Among the French, they wrote, "the notion of the unsunderable sovereignty of the 'etat nation' still carries weight, although this sovereignty has long since become an empty shell".

From the other side of this divide, M Juppé has now delivered a splendidly unambiguous answer. "For us Gaullists," he said this week, "the nation state remains more than ever the central and essential focus where the democratic contract takes shape, the social and political link between

the citizen and his representatives." Belief in the value of the nation state is closer to most Europeans' political instincts than faith in federalism. National parliaments remain the central focus of democratic legitimacy, the White Paper said on Tuesday. Nationally elected representatives are the source of democratic legitimacy, M Juppé said the following day.

But France also wishes to use the EU to enhance its international influence and to retain its leverage over Germany. Since Gaullist governments in particular have no wish to build up the powers of the supra-national institutions in Brussels, France wants an active Europe led by strong governments such as itself. Both M Juppé and M Barnier talked about changes to the EU system which would allow a "hard core" around France and Germany to integrate further and faster than the rest.

This is partly a selfish desire to entrench the diplomatic privileges which France and Germany have created for each other in the EU. But greater flexibility in the EU's arrangements was also made inevitable by the Maastricht treaty's rules allowing a small number of states to start a single currency. What might appear to be a threat to British interests could be, if Malcolm Rifkind and his colleagues are fast-footed enough, an opportunity. Britain must seek to preserve and extend the market freedoms agreed by all EU states while countenancing — under carefully defined conditions — open partnerships between like-minded states in which the whole EU does not participate. A fuller set of ideas on future "flexibility" would be welcome from Mr Rifkind in next week's House of Commons debate on the Europe White Paper.

BONE OF CONTENTION

Three hearty barks for canine democracy

A Jack Russell writes: To his owner, every dog is Lassie or Toby. Hence the constant popularity of owners among dogs. For owners are the only animals on earth who love us dogs more than we love ourselves. With training they bring us "Wood", the pedigree food we ask for by name.

Dogs' best friends are loyal creatures who thrive on discipline and routine. But they can also growl, especially in March, when Crufts, the greatest dog-owners' show in the world, comes round. So this year's call by their noisier breeds to end elitism in the Kennel Club is long overdue. For the 123 years of the Kennel Club's existence, owners have kept on trying to introduce hierarchy into our democratic canine ways.

In the real world every dog may have its day, and sniff the tail of any other. But this is not the rule in the Kennel Club. By unnatural selection, breeders have elongated the backs of bassetts and dachshunds. They clip their poodles to imitate the wilder fringes of human hairstyling. And they do not count Jack Russells as a serious breed for Crufts. What catfood! The Devonshire parson who left us his name bred us small and plucky for putting down foxes' ears long before the Kennel Club was founded.

For Crufts to bar Jack Russells from its classes, apart from obedience tests, may in fact be a blessing in catskin. In obedience tests, a Russell is as good as any other dog at

leading his owner round an obstacle course at a stately trot. But if they promoted us to pedigree, owners would try to breed us selectively to conform to their ideal Russell, so levelling out our variety in colour, size, length of hair and shortness of yap.

Human not canine breeds are exciting the owners this year. A spokesman for the Kennel Club describes its ruling committee as "a broad cross-section of society". But its membership is only 750, and although anyone can apply to join, the top dog-owners can blackmail him. Its critics complain that tweedy working breeds such as brigadiers and headmistresses are overrepresented. Moreover, their average age is 69, which has to be divided by seven to produce its canine equivalent. At 10, even the friskiest Jack Russell is showing gravitas. In a poll, mongrel owners voted that the Kennel Club did not present a positive image of itself or of the world of dogs.

But the world of dogs is still full of wagging tails. The world of dog-owners is the one I worry about. The more I see of owners, the more I love dogs. The dog-owner who is really kind to dogs is always one who has failed to inspire sympathy in the opposite sex. When the Kennel Club publishes its report on its magic circle in May, I predict some owners will be in the doghouse. But we Jack Russells will, as usual, be hiding in the owner's bed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Getting to grips with the regulation of gun ownership

From Mr Michael Pryor

Sir, Most guns can kill. Some are designed primarily to kill people. Who wants to own such a weapon? Not target or game shots (such as myself). We use guns made for our sport. What if the real motive is enjoyment of the weapon itself and the "sport" is merely an excuse to use it legally?

They are not all potential murderers, but those who wish to own guns primarily designed for killing other people have a particularly difficult case to meet. If they cannot convince us, further controls are needed.

After Dunblane, Parliament must not perform its usual trick of hastily enacting blunt, unworkable and unnecessarily oppressive legislation after an emotive and uninformed debate. The real dangers of gun ownership must be confronted. That is in the interests of us all.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PRYOR,
9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
March 14.

From Mr John Merrett

Sir, It is not too early to predict that the gun lobby will strive, once more, to convince the rest of us that the horror of Dunblane has nothing to do with them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MERRETT,
24 Broadleaves Park, Devizes, Wiltshire.
March 13.

From Mr Colin McKelvie

Sir, Although Tuesday's tragedy at Dunblane was unique in its horror, the killing and wounding of innocent people by criminals in general, drug dealers in particular, and by unstable and demented individuals occurs in the UK almost weekly.

In the enactment of the 1988 Firearms (Amendment) Act, Home Office Ministers steered through Parliament a hastily drafted piece of legislation that had broad cross-party support and was aimed at preventing a recurrence of the Hungerford massacre of 1987, and reducing the general incidence of armed crime.

In fact, armed robberies in England and Wales have increased from 2,700 in 1988 to 4,100 in 1994, with a peak of more than 6,000 in 1993. Crimes involving firearms increased tenfold in

the period from 1973 to 1993. Yet, since the 1988 Act took effect, the total numbers of shotgun certificates held in Britain have fallen from 971,102 to 740,441, and firearms certificates from 193,809 to 172,644.

It is also salutary to note that by far the most stringent firearms laws in the Western world have been in place in Northern Ireland since 1969.

The Dunblane incident has highlighted the palpable ineffectiveness of legislation in preventing the illegal use of firearms by criminals or the insane. And firearms are not the only reason for the evil and the deranged: every kitchen, garden shed or garage contains objects and substances that have lethal potential if malevolently used.

The principal effect of new laws is merely to restrict the freedoms of law-abiding people.

Yours etc.
COLIN MCKELVIE,
Tundergarth House,
Lockerie, Dumfriesshire.
March 14.

From Mr Roger Baker

Sir, One of the many depressing aspects of the shooting incident at Dunblane, is that the tragedy will inevitably be used as a stick with which to beat Britain's shooting community.

Target shooting has grown in recent years into one of our largest participatory sports. British shooters are among the country's most lawabiding and peaceable citizens. Yet whenever a shooting incident occurs they are categorised along with the deranged and violent as a threat to public safety.

Illegal firearms are, by contrast, a growing threat to us all. There are probably millions of illicit weapons in circulation: a frightening prospect, and one which should be given far more attention by the authorities than it currently receives.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER BAKER,
Old Hall,
High Hurstwood, East Sussex.
March 13.

From the Vice-President of NCH Action for Children

Sir, The tragedy of Dunblane is too appalling and surely this time one response must be the immediate need to

reconsider all permissions relating to gun ownership and gun use. One possible way, which I feel would have the understanding and backing of all those who have legitimate reasons to own usable guns, would be to revoke with the minimum of notice all current permits.

This would ensure that all those who reapply for permission can either be approved because of past and current information, or can be vetted more thoroughly, with a view to weeding out those who obviously should not be permitted or encouraged to have the use of guns.

Yours truly,
NEVILLE SHULMAN,
Vice-President,
NCH Action for Children,
4 St George's House,
15 Hanover Square, W1.
March 14.

From Mr M. I. Webb

Sir, There can be no sane reason why any person other than a member of the Armed Forces should either need or even have access to an automatic weapon of any kind.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE WEBB,
Smiddy House, Auchencrow,
Eyemouth, Berwickshire.
March 14.

From Dr W. Denys E. Wells

Sir, You were kind enough to print my letter (August 24, 1987) following the Hungerford tragedy. Sadly what I wrote then is as true today — namely, no inquiry is made to the general practitioner of a prospective gun holder as to whether they have any psychiatric history which would suggest their unsuitability to own a gun.

I believe there are some 250,000 current legal owners of guns. I am certain a few will use the weapon on themselves; one or two on others. A simple questionnaire to GPs — eg, Is there a history of psychosis or severe depression? yes/no — I am sure would prevent a few further tragedies.

Yours sincerely,
W. DENYS WELLS,
Northgate Medical Centre,
15 Northgate,
Aldridge,
Walsall, West Midlands.
March 14.

A better deal for London's walkers

From the Chairman of the Trustees of the National Gallery

Sir, Your leader, "A capital idea" (March 13; and Marcus Binney's article), clearly makes the case for pedestrianising certain key areas of central London. One proposal now being much discussed is the closing to traffic of the north side of Trafalgar Square. This could transform the square, allowing it to take its rightful place as a centrepiece of our capital city.

As well as opening up the square to public use, this scheme would greatly benefit public access to the National Gallery. Each year four million visitors enter the gallery. The majority of these use the main entrance, having to negotiate the narrowest of pavements with traffic rushing past close by. In summer, with the added crush of tour coaches, entrance to the gallery becomes a real struggle.

Discussions and possible plans go back a long way — but to date the interests of traffic have always won out. We hope that awareness of the advantages of pedestrian schemes is now sufficiently strong for London belatedly to join the other European and British cities which have acted to such good effect.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP HUGHES,
Chairman of the Trustees,
The National Gallery,
Trafalgar Square, WC2.
March 14.

From Mr Owen Hilton

Sir, Motorcycles mount the pavement less often than pedestrians step heedlessly into the road, often within yards of a crossing. Pave your leading article today, those of us on two wheels are entitled to regard such walkers as "lethal".

Yours etc.
OWEN HILTON,
21 Ashburnham Place,
Greenwich, SE10.
March 13.

Recycling in Britain

From Mr Alex Griffin

Sir, In his article, "Why are Britons so bad at recycling?" (Weekend, March 9), Tony Kelly quotes our aluminium can recycling rate as "barely 20 per cent", compared with 86 per cent in Sweden.

In fact the UK aluminium can recycling rate was already 24 per cent in 1994, and shipments to Alcan's dedicated can recycling plant in Warrington during 1995 indicate that a rate approaching 28 per cent may now be anticipated.

Sweden operates a deposit return system, whereas here in the UK, the high value of aluminium drives recycling rate growth. Individuals and charities can be paid cash for their used aluminium cans (about 1p per can), while good margins are allowed for trade recyclers.

Furthermore, our industry will guarantee to recycle every aluminium drink can collected.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX GRIFFIN,
(National Manager),
Aluminium Can Recycling
Association Ltd,
5 Gatsby Court,
176 Holliday Street, Birmingham.
March 13.

Young Picasso

From Mr Michael Grosvenor Myer

Sir, What might have been Picasso's own view of Miss Alexandra Nechita's work (report, March 13) may be surmised from his reported reply to the mother who told him her small daughter could draw just like him. "What a clever child," he exclaimed. "Why, when I was her age, I could only draw like Raphael."

Yours truly,
M. GROSVENOR MYER,
34 West End,
Haddenham, Cambridge.
March 13.

From Mrs Howard Elston

Sir, One of the non-art world's most popular theories has been proven. This is not the discovery that a ten-year-old can paint like Picasso, but that Picasso painted like a ten-year-old.

Yours faithfully,
JANIE ELSTON,
45 Ouseley Road, SW12.
March 13.

Opportunity knocks

From Mrs Stella W. Walker

Sir, Two days ago the Royal Mail delivered to me a glossy brochure from a romantic organisation offering to find me a suitable "partner", and including an intimate questionnaire. Today I have received from Help the Aged an impassioned plea to "adopt a granny".

As a long-established octogenarian I am undecided which opportunity I should pursue.

Yours faithfully,
STELLA W. WALKER,
Watermill Farm,
Rushlake Green,
Heathfield, East Sussex.
March 11.

Pesticide sprays

From the Secretary of the Cressote Council

Sir, I sympathise with Margaret Reichlin and those others who, like her, suffer distressing symptoms as a result of the chemicals in pesticide sprays and other products ("When home is a prison", *Body and Mind*, February 27).

However, lest her remark that "fly sprays and creosote are murder" be taken as referring to the application of creosote by means of a spray, may I point out that this non-agricultural pesticide should always be applied by brushing and dipping rather than by spraying. The Cressote Council has published a fact sheet on the product and its safe application; it is available from this address, free of charge.

Yours faithfully,
WELSELY BETTS, Secretary,
The Cressote Council,
c/o Tar Industries Services,
Mill Lane, Wingerworth,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.
March 7.

Conservation of game

From the Director General of the Game Conservancy Trust

Sir, In your report of March 11, "Predator revival ruffles human feathers", the Game Conservancy Trust was referred to as "a charity dedicated to preserving gamebirds for sport". This is incorrect. In line with our trust object we aim "to promote for the public benefit the conservation and study of game species, their habitats and the other species associated with those habitats".

To preserve gamebirds for sport is not a charitable activity and the organisations which aim to do this are not charities.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. POTTS,
Director General,
The Game Conservancy Trust,
Fordingbridge, Hampshire.
March 11.

The language of law

From Mr Clive Grenyer

Sir, Whilst I welcome Mr Francis Bennion's thoughtful response (letter, March 5) to the disclosure that the Treasury are contracting out the task of legislative drafting, I would add that Sir George Engle (letter, February 27) probably underestimated the cost of having legislation drafted by parliamentary counsel.

This should include the amortised cost of their offices in Whitehall, and the expense of maintaining a comprehensive legal library and running an office that is able to deliver draft legislation and amendments with speed and accuracy.

Most public-sector legal offices contract out work from time to time. This enables peaks and troughs of work to be evened out. The office manager can also check his costs against those of the private sector to ensure that the

Liver transplants

From Mr Stephen Pollard

Sir, It is unfortunate that the achievement of this country's first combined liver/bowel/pancreas transplant (report, March 6) became overshadowed in much of the press by the case of Leah Betts's liver and the fact it could not be used in the United Kingdom because of lack of intensive-care beds or no suitable recipients (report, March 6).

In our own unit, one of the larger liver transplant units in this country, we were indeed offered Leah Betts's liver and declined it purely on medical grounds, since Ecstasy can be profoundly toxic to the liver. We have successfully transplanted a number of patients now who have been within hours of death from Ecstasy-induced liver failure.

To use a liver exposed to Ecstasy would have been most unwise, in my view, and I would have only considered doing so if I had a patient whose own life expectancy was to be measured in hours rather than days; this was

not the situation on the day that Leah Betts's liver became available.

Never has the plight of our patients been more serious and the donor shortage more marked. For the press to report that there was no suitable recipient in the United Kingdom was serious misinformation. As always there are hundreds of patients waiting for liver transplants and when a suitable organ is available it would always be used in the UK.

I sincerely hope that the publicity of the Leah Betts case has in no way affected the courage and goodwill shown by the British people at the time of personal tragedy in offering organs from their deceased loved ones for transplantation. Any decline in the organ donation rate will inevitably lead to the demise of patients on the liver transplant waiting lists in our seven liver transplant centres.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN POLLARD
(Director of liver transplantation),
St James's University Hospital,
Leeds LS9 7TF.
March 8.

Clergy testing

From Mr David Holmes

Sir, One of the potential advantages of the Church of England's decision to introduce psychometric testing of candidates for the ministry (letters, March 12) must surely be to help candidates themselves to understand their vocational motivation.

Inevitably some candidates are very uncertain, and others unquestioningly certain, of the authenticity and integrity of their "calling".

Additional information — sensitively obtained from and presented to candidates — which throws light on the influence they themselves may be having on their "call from God" will enhance the process of testing their vocations.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOLMES,
48 Charlbury Road, Oxford.
March 12.

From Mr T. F. Sinclair

Sir, As a retired personnel officer I was particularly struck in Ruth Gledhill's report (March 8) by the phrase "taking lessons from the world of modern management".

It seems to me that the Church of England is again going wrong by taking an inappropriate model from secular employment.

As for the suggestion that the present selection system is biased towards those who demonstrate verbal ability — so it should be! It is those very qualities of literacy and scholarship which are desperately needed in the Church today.

I remain, Sir,
your obedient servant,
THOS. F. SINCLAIR,
Bank House,
High Street,
Wrotham, Sevenoaks, Kent.
March 10.

From Mr Leslie Allen

Sir, As one who has been a legal draftsman for 20 years, I agree with Mr Bennion about the qualities required by the efficient legislative drafter. However, it would appear that such qualities are in short supply in the public service.

The standard of much modern parliamentary drafting is very poor. Many statutory instruments display neither clarity of thought nor any real understanding of the subject matter. Ambiguities are commonplace.

It is for this reason that the proposal to farm out legislative drafting is to be welcomed. The costs involved may possibly be greater than the present system but, ultimately, only the lawyers benefit from cheap shoddy drafting.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE ALLEN,
20 Priory Road,
Newbury, Berkshire.

Business letters, page 27

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

NEWS

Dunblane inquiry on gun controls

A public inquiry into the Dunblane tragedy will review gun controls and whether the authorities fell down in their dealings with Thomas Hamilton, the killer, ministers said yesterday.

The investigation will focus on whether Hamilton should have been granted firearms certificates, whether the various agencies cross-checked the details they held on him and whether they should have taken action. Page 1

Fit to be armed: Pressure was mounting last night for doctors to be given a key role in the decision on whether a person is fit to be issued with a shotgun or firearms licence. Page 2

The dead: Friends and neighbours of the 16 children who died spoke of their sorrow and sympathy for the bereaved families. Megan Turner, who had won bonny baby contests in Dunblane, was one of 11 girls killed. Page 3

Foreign reaction: The massacre transfixed the world. In America, it was the lead item on television news programmes and it filled many newspaper columns. Page 4

Searching for words: Primary teachers across Britain struggled to find the words to explain the events in Dunblane to inquisitive small children. Page 5

Battle for earldom

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, the minister who disclaimed an historic title to help the beleaguered Prime Minister, won a legal battle against his cousin for the 350-year-old Earldom of Selkirk. Page 6

Doctor cleared

A German doctor working in Britain, who was accused of endangering the lives of children, was cleared by a disciplinary hearing. Elisabeth Zittlau, 35, admitted prescribing five times the usual dose of a stimulant to a premature baby. Page 8

Challenge for drivers

Learner drivers will need to be experts in the environment, law and health and display detailed knowledge of the Highway Code after the written driving test starts on July 1. Page 9

Ethnic shift

America, facing one of the sharpest shifts in ethnic and racial composition since the slave trade transformed the South, expects its white population will shrink to a bare majority by the middle of the next century. Page 12

Gaddafi takes on role of storyteller

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya, bugbear of the Sinai anti-terror summit, has emerged in an unlikely new role: author of a collection of children's stories that has become a bestseller in the Arab world. Nearly 100,000 copies of *The Village is the Village, the Land is the Land and the Suicide of the Spaceman*, have been sold in two weeks. Page 15

Kerouac dispute

An attempt to disinter Jack Kerouac, the Beat author, has hit legal trouble. The town of Lowell, Massachusetts, where Kerouac was buried after succumbing to drink in 1969, wants to keep him in its cemetery because, among other things, he is good for business. Page 12

Riot in Nicosia

Nearly 200 people were injured when battles erupted outside the Archbishop's Palace in Nicosia between riot police and thousands of supporters of a suspended priest who was being tried by a religious court on charges of immorality. Page 13

China offensive

China has four military options if it wants to achieve more than just psychological pressure on Taiwan with its naval and air exercises, according to Western intelligence sources. Page 14

Clinton's promise

President Clinton pledged \$65 million to help Israel to fight terrorism as the Israelis said they would expel Arabs linked to suicide bombings. Page 15



Taiwanese protesters outside the Chinese Embassy in London yesterday demonstrating against the missile tests. Reports, pages 14, 15

ELECTRICITY

Electricity: Electricity companies are likely to face a flood of claims after an important ruling that forces a company to compensate consumers who lost their supply after a thunderstorm. Page 23

Mirror: The Mirror Group hinted that it would try to become part of a larger media company if it finds a way around the new cross-media ownership rules. Page 23

BTR: Shares in the BTR industrial group rose 13.5p to 333.5p as the firm unveiled profits up 6 per cent to £1.5 billion. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 41.5 points to 3681.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 83.2 after a rise from \$1.5237 to \$1.5243 but a slip from DM2.2424 to DM2.2422. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Australia reached the World Cup final with a five-run victory over West Indies in Chanderigarh. Australia, who lost their first four wickets for only 15 runs, now meet Sri Lanka. Page 44

Racing: Ireland celebrated its first Cheltenham Gold Cup win since 1986 when Imperial Call won at 9-2 from Rough Quest and Countdown. Page 44

Boxing: Lennox Lewis will meet the winner of the bout between Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson, according to Jose Sulaiman, president of the World Boxing Council. Page 44

Rugby union: Fran Cotton, Northern Division chairman, said the interests of the England side may be lost in the pursuit of overseas talent by leading clubs. Page 40

ARTS

Pop on Friday: The Beloved, the husband and wife duo of Jon and Helena Marsh, have redefined the genre of dance music by baring their brains as well as their bodies. Page 32

Don't bother: Even by the standards of recent projects from beyond the grave, the return of the Sex Pistols is a singularly unappealing prospect, says David Sinclair. Page 33

Theatrical coup: Stephen Sondheim's musical about matrimony, *Company*, makes a welcome return to the West End. Page 34

Musical magic: Sir Georg Solti and the London Symphony Orchestra set nerves tingling with their robust account of Bruckner's Fourth Symphony. Page 34

FEATURES

The Atlantic divide: America has the greatest income inequality, the highest crime rates and the lowest electoral participation in the world. It also has no doubts, self-confidence and a belief in the superiority of American life. Magnus Linklater reports. Page 16

Sex and Sue: Sue Lawley, the *Desert Island Discs* presenter, talks to Valerie Grove about "that" interview with the Shadow Chancellor. Page 17

EDUCATION

Living memory: John Young, head teacher at Sullivan Upper School, recalls the day in 1994 when an intruder turned a flamethrower on A-level pupils. Page 37

FOCUS

Projected success: The use of project managers in the construction industry has risen tenfold in the past five years. Pages 30, 31

THE PICTURE

It is imperative that (Gerry) Adams convince the underground IRA that its brutal threat to bomb Britain for the next 25 years cannot lead to a solution. — Los Angeles Times

Must we take the Sharm el Sheikh peace summit seriously? It has been too geared to the media, too electioneering and too improvised to be truly credible. — Le Figaro

Gun ownership: better deal for London walkers: liver transplant testing of clergy. Page 19

TV LISTINGS

Preview: A famous Tony Hancock monologue lives again. *Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's The Bedsitter* (ITV, 8.30pm). Review: Lynne Truss on the public facade and private grief of Harold Macmillan. Page 48

OPINION

After Dunblane

Grief may lend urgency to the case, but the arguments for a ban on the private use of handguns now seem compelling. Page 19

L'état-nation

A fuller set of ideas on future "flexibility" would be welcome from Mr Rifkind in next week's House of Commons debate on the Europe White Paper. Page 19

Bone of contention

In the real world every dog may have its day, and sniff the tail of any other. But this is not the rule in the Kennel Club. Page 19

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

The Government suffered an unusually big defeat in the House of Lords the other day and is unsure what to do about it. What was unusual was the day, a Friday; the scale, 124 votes to 64; the array of heavyweight opposition; and the issue, the integrity of the civil service. Page 11

TIM CONGDON

The National Lottery... negates the ideal of hard work, by offering the slim chance of a huge fortune for doing nothing. It must be abolished. Page 18

BERNARD LEVIN

Little did the infant Levin know what was to be, when he haunted the Albert Hall and from the top gallery heard again and again that great violinist Bronislav Huberman, accompanied by Leopold Spilmann, the man who was to be Mrs Gill's father, and who died in the Holocaust. Page 18

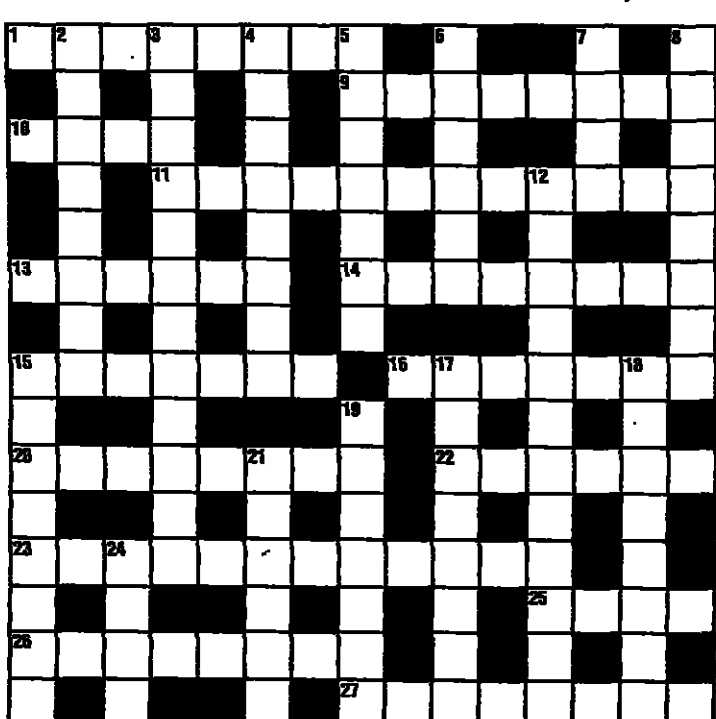
MARGARET READ

Margaret Read, musician; J.A. Cuddon, schoolmaster and dictionary writer; Professor Richard Ross, academic economist and public servant; Rex Lee, Solicitor-General of the USA. Page 19

GUNS

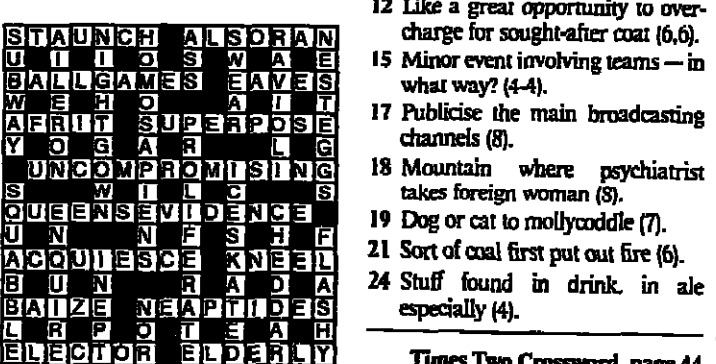
Gun ownership: better deal for London walkers: liver transplant testing of clergy. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,116



- ACROSS
- 1 Calm river in Ireland, for example (8).
 - 9 1 ac making name in England with one (8).
 - 10 Top marks collected by expert (4).
 - 11 Old-fashioned hardship, say, in sailing vessel (6-6).
 - 13 Visibly show exertion as run ended in distress (6).
 - 14 Prisoner caught in moving struggle (8).
 - 15 Cad joins up again? Just the reverse (7).
 - 16 Dog in miserable state I found (7).
 - 20 Garment a good-looking girl's taken in to make smaller (8).
 - 22 Financial return brings cheer when in debt (6).
 - 23 Disposing of silver, in the event, of course (7,5).
- DOWN
- 25 Make new organ, initially (4).
 - 26 Dish cooked in 'ouse by tenant, mostly (8).
 - 27 Possibly test a sprout? This'll help check the flavour (5,3).
 - 2 New constellation initially noticed in the West (8).
 - 3 Like Lincoln, say, quiet and suitable to live in (12).
 - 4 Succession of queen's arranged with church (8).
 - 5 Desperate struggle for artist to make drawing (3,4).
 - 6 King, in play, has nothing available when bishop and queen move in (6).
 - 7 Decoration for instrument (4).
 - 8 Books put out in litter bin, unfinished (8).
 - 12 Like a great opportunity to overcharge for sought-after coat (6,6).
 - 15 Minor event involving teams — in what way? (4-4).
 - 17 Publicise the main broadcasting channels (8).
 - 18 Mountain where psychiatrist takes foreign woman (8).
 - 19 Dog or cat to mollycoddle (7).
 - 21 Sort of coal first put out fire (6).
 - 24 Stuff found in drink, in ale especially (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,115



Times Two Crossword, page 44

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,116

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
Ireland	708

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by appropriate code.

Location	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	709
East of England	710
West of England	711
South of England	712
North of England	713
Scotland	714
Wales	715
Ireland	716

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Location	Start	End
London	6:14 am	6:06 pm
Edinburgh	6:17 pm	6:21 am
Manchester	6:14 pm	6:21 am
Penzance	6:28 pm	6:33 am

FLIGHT SAVERS

From	To	Price
London	Frankfurt	£79
London	Amsterdam	£79
London	Brussels	£79

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For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=brilliant; c=cloudy; d=dreizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dust; f=fog; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=showers; sl=sleet; sn=snow; su=sun; t=thunder; w=wind.

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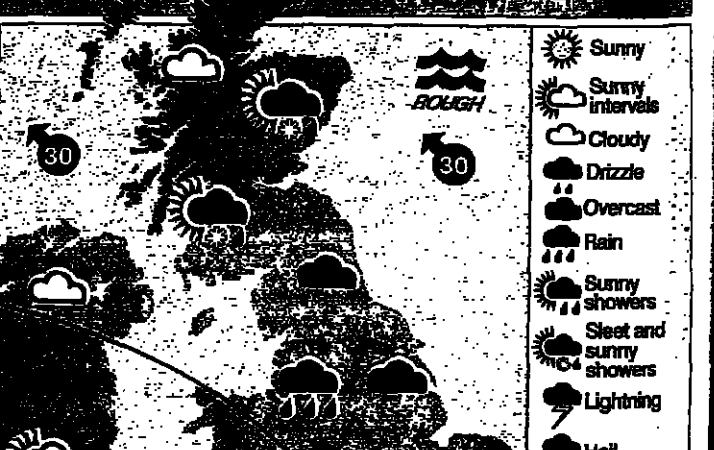
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,116



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ARTS 32-34

Why a Sex Pistols comeback is a rotten prospect



EDUCATION 37

Shakespeare is squeezed out of English GCSEs



SPORT 38-44

Irish eyes smile after Imperial Call takes Gold Cup

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42-43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY MARCH 15 1996

Electricity firms face claims flood

By Christine Buckley

ELECTRICITY companies are likely to face a flood of claims from customers after a ruling that forces a company to compensate consumers who lost supply after a thunderstorm.

The ruling against Midlands Electricity has implications for companies that cannot reconnect supplies within 24 hours during bouts of severe weather and was heralded as a long-fought-for victory by consumer groups. They are now encouraging electricity users to serve retrospective claims on suppliers.

The decision by Professor Stephen Littlechild, the elec-

tricity regulator, that Midlands Electricity must compensate customers who lost supply for more than 24 hours after lightning strikes on power cables in Hereford and Worcester and Gloucestershire, will reverberate throughout the industry. Midlands had claimed exemption from the Guaranteed Standards of Performance, which requires compensation for interrupted supply of that duration, on the grounds of severe weather and exceptional circumstances.

Professor Littlechild blamed Midlands for being under-resourced to deal with its problems last summer. Midlands has cut its staff by 31 per cent to 5,300 since privatisation and expects further job reductions. But the company rejected suggestions that it was under-resourced and said it had maintained frontline staffing levels. Midlands said it was scrutinising Professor Littlechild's ruling.

Since privatisation the electricity industry has lost more than 42,000 jobs.

In ruling for compensation payments on two of 19 cases involving Midlands Electricity due for his consideration, Professor Littlechild said: "Although the storm was severe the company has not convinced me that it took all reasonable steps to prevent a breach of the regulations."

Ken Prior, of the chairman's group of electricity consumers committees, said: "This is an important marker and I would urge customers to make claims against their companies although the companies blame the weather. The Government sold this industry quite cheaply but it has to be remembered that

it needs quite an amount of investment."

Claims for compensation have to be made within a month of the interruption under the guaranteed standards system. The damage to Midlands' network cut the supply to 283,550 customers. About 50,000 customers were without power at the same time. Some 1,179 customers were left without power for more than 24 hours, for which the standard payment is £40.

Consumer groups are now pressing households to make backdated claims, including those who lost supply in the winter's severe weather. Sharon Dee, of the Consumers Association, said: "We would encourage all customers to make claims even though the time is technically up. This is an important principle. If companies are shedding staff in order to make their profits better then they should be made to pay."

The decision will reverberate particularly through parts of the industry exposed to harsh weather. Hydro Electric, which operates across rough terrain in Scotland, believes the knock-on effects could be huge. A spokesman said companies unable to reach damaged parts of their networks because of snow-blocked or flooded roads may be forced to counter claim against local authorities.

The Electricity Association, the trade body, said the fact that the Midlands customers' complaints to Ofwat marked the first appeal against a company since the guaranteed standards were introduced five years ago was testimony to high standards operated by electricity companies.



David Montgomery, MGN chief executive, promoting the Live TV news bunnies

MGN to aim for media link-up

By Eric Reguly

THE Mirror Group, owner of the *Daily Mirror* and Scotland's *Daily Record*, hinted yesterday that it would try to become part of a larger media company if it succeeds in finding a way around the new cross-media ownership rules.

The company also said that it will raise the Monday-to-Friday price of the *Daily Mirror* by 2p, to 30p, starting next week, to help to offset higher newspaper costs. News International, owner of *The Times* and *The Sun*, said it will raise the price of *The Sun* by 2p, to 27p, at the same time.

David Montgomery, chief executive of MGN, said: "I see synergies in TV and newspaper companies coming together." His comments renewed speculation that Carlton Communications, the ITV company that last month considered spooling the proposed merger between M&P and United News & Media, might attempt to link with Mirror.

The Mirror Group has been lobbying the Government to grant it an exemption that would allow it to buy or merge with a TV group. Under the proposed rules, Mirror cannot do so unless it controls less than 20 per cent of the national newspaper market; it has about 23 per cent. Mr Montgomery said the Government's position is "unfair and unsustainable".

The company reported pre-tax profits of £57.2 million in the year to December 31, up 3 per cent from the previous period, on turnover of £512 million, up 11 per cent. Rising newspaper costs were blamed for the small increase. Profits were £77.1 million after £10.1 million launch costs for Live TV, the cable channel.

Earnings per share were 19.8p against 35.2p. The latter figure was skewed by the release of a large pension fund provision in 1994. The shares rose 11p to 225p.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET	
FT-SE 100	3681.8 (+41.5)
Yield	4.02%
FT-SE All share	1628.72 (+15.48)
Nikkei	19223.66 (+188.56)
New York	
Dow Jones	5695.18 (+40.48)
S&P Composite	643.06 (+4.51)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 1/4% (8 1/4%)
Yield	6.55% (6.58%)
LONDON SHARE	
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4% (6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2% (10 1/2%)
STERLING	
New York	1.5235 (1.5235)
London	1.5235 (1.5235)
DM	2.2442 (2.2438)
FF	7.6920 (7.6930)
Yen	167.18 (167.15)
£ Index	83.2 (83.2)
DOLLAR	
London	1.4734 (1.4708)
DM	5.0505 (5.0355)
FF	1.1895 (1.1894)
Yen	105.47 (105.15)
£ Index	95.5 (95.5)
Tokyo close Yen	105.30
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (May)	\$18.05 (\$18.00)
GOLD	
London close	\$395.95 (\$396.90)
denotes midday trading price	

Last minute

The takeover deadline for Fokker, the ailing Dutch jet maker, past last night with no word of a rescue. Fokker is clinging to hopes of a last-minute bid from either South Korea's Samsung Aerospace or China's Aviation Industries (AVIC). Page 24

First signs

The sale of Colman's food business last year helped Reckitt & Colman profits leap to £418 million from £160 million. Successful integration of L&F, the US cleaning business helped profits before one-off items rise 5.5 per cent. Page 25

State aid likely for Brittany Ferries

By Ross Tieman
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE French Government is expected next week to announce a package of state aid for Brittany Ferries, a move that will provoke "vigorous protests" to the European Commission by Eurotunnel.

Much of the aid to the loss-making cross-Channel operator will come as cuts in social charges, as with the £546 million two-year aid package offered this month to the ailing French textile, footwear and clothing industries.

That support is already the subject of protests to the European Commission, which is investigating. The British Textile and Apparel Confederation has alerted ministers and the Commission of the risks to 400,000 British jobs. The confederation is also opposing the British Government's planned aid to Hualon, the Taiwanese textiles group, in Northern Ireland.

Brittany Ferries, which employs 2,600 French seamen, a quarter of those in France's shrunken merchant fleet, says that it is disadvantaged by the strength of the franc and by paying higher social charges than its British and Scandinavian rivals.

It is understood to have seen losses rise tenfold last year, to more than £100 million, as a cross-Channel price war, triggered by competition between Eurotunnel and the rival ferry operators P&O and Stena, has cut average fares by 25 per cent.

Brittany Ferries is a company controlled by a group of farmers and local authorities in Brittany. Lease charges for that part of its seven-vessel fleet owned indirectly by the regions of Brittany and Lower Normandy are expected to be cut. The French Government is expected to cut national insurance contributions; Brittany Ferries says that it would save £520,000 a year if it paid the same rate as its British rivals.

Britain's Department for Education and Employment says that social charges in France are £41 per £100 of wages, against £18 in the UK.

A Eurotunnel spokesman said industry-specific cuts in social charges would be contrary to competition rules of the European Union's Treaty of Rome. "We will protest vigorously," he said.

Pennington, page 25

BTR shares jump on £1.5bn profit

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in BTR, the diversified industrial company, jumped 13.5p to 333.5p yesterday as the company unveiled full-year profits up 6 per cent at £1.5 billion, beating City expectations.

The company said it will continue its disposal of non-core businesses including the construction, commercial interiors, aggregates and the troubled Taiwanese polymer businesses. Ian Strachan, who became chief executive at the beginning of the year, added that BTR was looking to balance disposals with at least as many acquisitions as were made last year and did not rule out a big purchase.

Last year the company spent £850 million on eleven new businesses including the £400 million purchase of Formica, the laminates maker. The company also disposed of 20

subsidiaries for about £720 million including the £300 million sale of Dunlop Slazenger, the sports group, in November. But Mr Strachan said underlying growth could prove difficult this year. He said: "While growth in certain sectors may be slow, the measures initiated will enable the company to take advantage of the opportunities available."

The company is especially keen to increase its exposure to emerging markets and said that the £2 billion acquisition of the minority interest in BTR Nylax at the end of last year would help improve its presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Overall turnover rose 9 per cent to £9 billion and total dividend also rose 9 per cent, to 14.69p. Gearing rose from 35 per cent to 107 per cent. The final dividend of 9.15p (8.3p) is payable on June 3.

United Biscuits suffers £100m loss

By Philip Pangalos

UNITED BISCUITS (Holdings), the McVitie's biscuits to KP snacks group, slumped to annual losses of more than £100 million after suffering exceptional charges totalling more than £150 million after a catalogue of disasters.

Colin Short, chairman, said UB's board took last year's "tormentous" decision to retreat from the disastrous foray into America and Spain, but emphasised that prospects have been transformed by the disposal of poor-performing businesses.

Exceptional charges, the hot summer and increased raw materials costs combined to drive the group to a pre-tax loss of £100.6 million in the 52 weeks to December 30, compared with a £131.8 million profit last time. Losses include a £49.8 million exceptional charge for the expected loss on

the sale of Keebler in America and a £52.5 million hit for withdrawing from Spain.

Contrary to market speculation, Mr Short said the company had not had any takeover approaches. He also reiterated the board's full support for Eric Nicoli, chief executive. Mr Nicoli would not rule out further provisions next year, but said prospects for profit recovery are good.

Mr Short said: "Our radical action in 1995 was the first of a three-phase process of reconstruction. Following the disposal of our US and Spanish operations, the reorganised group is working urgently towards a resumption of profit and dividend growth."

The final dividend is cut to 6.3p (9.8p), giving a total of 9.8p (15.3p).

Pennington, page 25

Hozelock wins top PLC award

By Martin Barrow

HOZELOCK GROUP, the garden equipment company, last night emerged as the company of the year in the 1995 PLC Awards.

The company, whose chairman is David Hargreaves and chief executive is David Codling, received the top honour at the annual awards ceremony at London's Grosvenor House Hotel.

Hozelock, whose shares were listed on the London Stock Exchange in November 1993, was formed in 1990 through a £24 million management buy-out. The company is now capitalised at about £121 million. In the past full financial

PLC Awards 1995

year, profits were £9.3 million, rising from £1.6 million in the year after the buyout.

Hozelock saw off a strong challenge from Abacus Polar, the electrical components company; GWR Group, the independent radio company;

Regent Inns, the public house operator; and Games Workshop Group, the specialist retailer.

Bryan Bedson, chief executive of Wyndham Press Group, won entrepreneur of the year, after the transformation of the group into a significant player in the printing industry. Other nominees were Bill Gammell, of Cairn Energy; Chris Swan, of Finelst Group; and Ray Chamberlain, of Forward Group.

Stoves, the manufacturer of domestic cookers, was named new company of the year, following its flotation on the stock market. The other contenders were Meconic, Precast International, and Zetefoams.

Wider significance, page 27

James Capel welcomes a new Private Client Team

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German stores to merge

A new German retailing group will emerge with the merger of three of the country's low-cost department store chains, Aska, Kaufhof and Deutsche SB-Kauf. The Metro retail group will be valued at about DM15.8 billion.

Metro's stores are known by the name Metro Cash-and-Carry. Metro forecast group sales of DM65.6 billion this year.

Scotia sold

Yorkshire Food Group is selling its Scotia food ingredients business in a £20 million deal. Scotia, based in Warrington, is being bought by a company run by Peter Merchant, a Yorkshire Food director, who is resigning.

Jeyes pass

Jeyes Group, the household hygiene company, is again passing the final dividend despite returning to profit in 1995, earning £1.3 million before tax compared with losses of £4.2 million in 1994.

Abbey bought

Platinum, the maker of stationery and writing instruments and homeware distributor, is to buy Abbey, a provider of self-storage facilities with a 17 per cent share of the UK market, for £24.5 million.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Rate	Bank Rate
Australia \$	2.08	1.90
Belgium F	16.80	15.30
Canada C	49.16	44.88
Denmark D	2.18	2.03
France F	0.750	0.688
Germany D	9.29	8.49
Finland Mk	7.56	6.91
France F	8.10	7.45
Germany D	2.40	2.19
Greece D	367.00	362.00
Hong Kong S	12.43	11.43
India R	1.02	0.94
Israel S	5.1100	4.4000
Italy L	2499.00	2344.00
Japan Y	174.80	158.00
Malta	0.590	0.535
Netherlands G	2.867	2.437
New Zealand S	2.36	2.14
Norway K	10.37	9.57
Portugal Esc	243.50	225.00
S Africa R	6.48	5.88
Spain P	165.50	152.50
Sweden K	10.25	10.15
Switzerland F	1.35	1.27
Turkey L	1008.37	1008.37
USA \$	1.822	1.492

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Strong organic growth helped Logica, the computer services group, to a 25 per cent advance in pre-tax profit, to £9 million, in the half year to December 31. Martin Read, left, chief executive, and Andrew Given, finance director, are optimistic about prospects for orders and margins. The interim dividend increases to 3p (1.75p).

Fokker fights for its life as state aid ends

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LAST-DITCH efforts to secure a buyer for Fokker, the collapsed Dutch plane-maker, continued last night after temporary aid from the Dutch Government ran out.

Directors and administrators of the group are expected to announce today whether what would be a twelfth-hour offer from Samsung Aerospace, of Korea, or Aviation Industries of China (Avic) will

save the 76-year-old company from closure.

Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economics Minister, said late on Wednesday that he would consider extending bridging loans if there were "concrete and serious signals" from a suitor. A noon deadline for a rescue passed yesterday without any signs of an offer from either potential buyer. Both Samsung and Avic are already involved in a Sino-Korean state-led beauty contest between Airbus Industrie and Boeing intended

to select a partner for the development of a new 100-seat jet, the Asian Express 100.

If Samsung or Avic were to make an offer for the core plane-building business, it is clear that their goal would be to gain access to Fokker's technology and licensing skills. Most of the company's aircraft fleet has already been transferred to a finance company, Debis, owned by its former parent, Daimler-Benz, of Germany. Few of the 5,500 employees

in the core business, assembling Fokker 70 and Fokker 100 jets in the 50-seat to 110-seat range and the Fokker 50 turbo-prop, now expect to keep their jobs. However, a further 2,300 jobs in non-core businesses, including space systems and aircraft maintenance, are likely to be saved if buyers can be found.

The Amsterdam Court of Justice was last night standing by to process a bankruptcy request from the administrators. If that happens, the Fokker collapse would be the biggest in Dutch corporate history. Fokker directors earlier this month unveiled a rescue plan under which the quoted holding company would have gone into bankruptcy with debts of about 3 billion guilders (£1.9 billion).

Bombardier, the Canadian plane-maker that bought the ailing aircraft groups De Havilland, Canadair and Short Brothers from grateful state shareholders, has already looked at Fokker's books. It has said that a takeover would be too risky.

PPI cash 'went to subsidiary'

DOCUMENTS available in northern Cyprus appeared to show that a money transfer for £400,000 was credited to the accounts of a local company, the Central Criminal Court trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, a former aide to Asil Nadir, was told yesterday.

Paying in slips and a ledger recording a purported transfer from Polly Peck International

(PPI) to Unipac, a subsidiary, did not appear to have been tampered with, it was said.

The documents were examined at the behest of lawyers acting for Mrs Forsyth, who denies handling nearly £400,000 allegedly stolen from PPI by Mr Nadir and used to settle private stock-broking and farming debts. Leslie Dick, an analytical

chemist, told the jury he had studied cash entries in northern Cyprus last week. They appeared to support the claim that the money had been paid by PPI in favour of Unipac.

In cross-examination by David Calvert-Smith, Mr Dick conceded that there was no absolute proof that the documents were prepared in 1989. The trial continues today.

Tradepoint seeking £8.5m via AIM quote

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TRADEPOINT Financial Networks, the screen-based electronic order-driven share trading system that effectively competes with the London Stock Exchange, plans to join the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) for smaller and growing companies in April. Tradepoint, launched last September, plans to join AIM, though a placing by Williams de Broe to institutional investors. Tradepoint, already listed in Vancouver and which raised £6 million through an institutional placing last June, hopes to raise about £8.5 million on AIM for medium-term growth, capitalising the company at about £40 million.

Michael Waller-Bridge, Tradepoint's chief executive, said: "Since the market opened last September, trading volumes have grown steadily and the number of participants, now standing at about 60, continues to increase. Trading has increased by about 20 per cent a month. The proposed admission to AIM forms the basis for our next phase of growth."

Tradepoint recently signed a potentially lucrative deal with Bloomberg, the data and information provider, allowing the use of Bloomberg's 54,000 terminals worldwide to execute electronic trades in UK shares to the secondary market trading community. The system is expected to be up and running before the end of this year and will mean that some 200,000 users of Bloomberg screens can obtain direct access to the London market, bypassing intermediaries.

It is expected that the Bloomberg deal could prove particularly attractive to US investors, who prefer the type of dealing system used by Tradepoint to the quote-driven system operated by the Stock Exchange. Tradepoint's order-matching facility allows buyers and sellers of shares to offer firm prices at which they are prepared to effect trades electronically. This is an alternative to the Stock Exchange's quote-driven system, where market-makers quote prices at which they are willing to buy or sell blocks of shares and investors negotiate by phone.

Pennington, page 25

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

South West Water chief stays on for bid

THE executive chairman of South West Water, which is facing a proposed bid from Wessex Water, its neighbour, has withdrawn his decision to leave the company and will steer it through its response to the "unwelcome" approach. Keith Court had planned to retire next month but is now likely to stay on until the end of the year.

The proposed offer from Wessex, must go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the Water Industry Act. The inquiry is expected to take up to four months while a bid, after the MMC decision, is anticipated to take a couple more months. Wessex cannot reveal the level of its bid until the investigation is complete and both sides are currently preparing papers for the MMC. South West has also appointed Alan Fletcher as deputy chairman. He will assume his duties immediately.

Warning over euro

SIR LEON BRITTAN, the European Commission vice-president, yesterday spoke against underestimating the willingness and ability of Germany and France to pursue plans for a single European currency by 1999. In a speech in London, Sir Leon said that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, would not abandon the plan lightly. He predicted that Herr Kohl would manage to persuade a sceptical German public that it should abandon its beloved mark in favour of the euro by convincing them that it was not a charter for a weak currency.

Charge hits Mayflower

THE MAYFLOW CORPORATION, the car body and vehicle cab maker, reported a pre-tax profit of £7.13 million (£8.59 million). While operating profits were up 70 per cent to £15.5 million and group sales 47 per cent higher at £110 million, an exceptional item of £7.4 million pushed profits down. There is a total dividend of 3p, up 33 per cent, with a 1.33p final. John Simpson, chief executive, said Walter Alexander, a leading supplier of buses which it purchased in August, had ended 1995 with a record order book of £77 million.

Dividend up at Davis

DAVIS SERVICE GROUP, the London business services company, has increased the total dividend for 1995 by 10 per cent to 9.35p a share, with a 6.27p final. Profits were £28.4 million before tax and non-recurring items, against £25.2 million. Adjusted earnings were 18.33p a share, up from 16.77p last time. The shares rose 10p to 248p yesterday. Non-recurring items comprised a net charge of £4.33 million, including a £2.2 million loss on the disposal of discontinued operations.

Watmoughs higher

WATMOUGHS (HOLDINGS), the printing company, reported an 18 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £23.7 million in 1995. Turnover was 16 per cent up at £208.4 million and operating profit rose 21 per cent to £27.7 million. The company is proposing to lift the total dividend 22 per cent to 9.5p a share with a 7p final. It said expansion included customer magazines and brochures for retailers. Important contracts to print *Hello!* and its Spanish equivalent *Hola!* had been extended three years to 2002.

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MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

Gold and land raise Minorco dividend

PROFITS surged ahead at Minorco, the South African-owned resources group, last year after strong growth in agribusiness and a recovery in the American gold mining operations (Carl Mordish writes).

The Luxembourg company raised profits before tax and exceptional items to \$665 million from \$414 million, despite last year's \$1.5 billion of investment in new businesses and mining projects which caused the interest charge to rise sharply. Minorco is increasing the annual dividend by 11 per cent to 63 cents a share.

Minorco's gold operations swung back to a substantial profit of \$35 million compared with 1994's marginal loss, thanks to a restructuring at Jerritt Canyon. Overall production fell during the year but Hank Slack, Minorco's chairman, said lower costs helped to turn a profit from the ore. Agribusiness profits soared from \$149 million to \$387 million. Base metals also enjoyed a profit surge.

MCA slides at Seagram

SEAGRAM, the Canadian drinks group, reported "disappointing" results in its core wine and spirits division and a downturn at MCA, the Hollywood film studio purchased last year. MCA's operating income fell 18 per cent to \$133 million in the quarter to January 31, largely because its music business was unable to repeat record results. Total operating earnings rose 35 per cent to \$412 million on revenue of \$3.66 billion.

Sir Kit to quit at Coutts

SIR KIT McMAHON is to retire as chairman of Coutts Consulting Group, the career management company, at the end of the current half-year. He will be succeeded by Stephen Johnson, with Andrew McRae promoted to chief executive. The changes were announced as the company reported 1995 pre-tax profits of £2.4 million (1994 breakeven). There is a final dividend of 1.4p, for a total of 2p (1.5p).



Following the DIVIDEND DECLARATION by Ford Motor Company (U.S.) on 11 January, 1996 NOTICE is now given that the following DISTRIBUTION will become payable on or after 15 March, 1996.

Gross Distribution per unit	1.7500 Cents
Less 15% USA Withholding Tax	0.2625 Cents
	1.4875 Cents
Converted at \$1.54	\$0.00965909

Claims should be lodged with the DEPOSITARY: National Westminster Bank PLC, Basement, Juno Court, 24 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB on special forms obtainable from that office.

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should mark payment of the dividend in the appropriate square on the reverse of the certificate.

All other claimants must complete the special form and present this at the above address together with the certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Dated 15 March, 1996

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The 79th Session

The Chinese Export Commodities Fair is subdivided into six specialized exhibition areas according to commodities classification. The exhibition areas represent respectively six general categories, which are foodstuffs, native produce and animal by-products; light industrial products and arts & crafts; textile & garments; metals & minerals and chemical products; medicines & health products; mechanical & electrical products, etc.

Business people from all parts of the world are welcome to the Fair for business negotiation and commodities purchase.

For invitation application or more details, please contact directly with China Foreign Trade Centre (Group) or the Commercial Departments / Offices of the local Chinese Embassies / Consulates.

The agencies of China Travel Service (H.K.) Ltd. and its branches in United States, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Hongkong are entrusted to provide the Fair visitors with the services of travel and hotel accommodation.

Time: April 15th-30th
Sponsors: Chinese foreign trade enterprises
Organizers: China Foreign Trade Centre (Group)
Address: 117, Liuhua Road, Guangzhou, China
Tel: 86-20-6678000 (switchboard), 6661664
Cable: CECA GUANGZHOU
Telex: 44465 FAIR CN
Fax: 86-20-6665851, 3335880

□ Bad year for the snack giant □ French ferries look for subsidy □ Lawyers can damage your health

Crunch time for United Biscuits

IT TAKES the biscuit, it really does. Listen to the sob story being retailed by United Biscuits. So deep has been the management's despair, we are told, that the company has been tempted to admit defeat and put itself up for sale. But wiser counsel prevailed, upper lips were stiffened, etc. etc.

First, some hard lessons in stock market practice. Companies that have failed as woefully as UB do not put themselves up for sale. They are bought by a hostile bidder, and sold down the river by shareholders who have lost all patience in the management's ability ever to deliver. Look at Forte, whose share price performance in the run up to the Granada bid compares rather favourably with that of UB.

That no approach came, despite endless rumours that had any corporate raider right up to Hanson itself poised to strike, suggests that no one could decide just how far the share price might fall. A bidder a year ago would have had to pay rather more than £4 to be certain of winning; last night the shares closed at 232½p. Offers around three quid, please?

Analysts are uncertain just how much further the shares will

fall. Profits for the current year will bounce, inevitably, after the disposal of those Tory grandees like Keebler and interest savings. But the worry is that it is impossible to assess the underlying sustainable profitability, given other underperformers like KP crisps that remain.

The company's line is that a change of culture has meant the departure of those Tory grandees who used to run UB. Weak areas like Keebler and Spain are history, and the business has been restructured geographically. Last, there are opportunities to "drive synergies across the group" — they really do talk like that — and to sell into undeveloped markets like Asia and Eastern Europe.

Fine. But the Tory grandees left two years ago, while every consumer goods producer in the world is heading for those same new markets. UB's trouble is it is in the wrong business. Biscuits are under attack from supermarket own label brands and more innovative competitors,

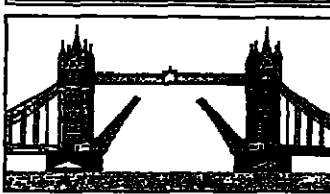
while in snacks the main rival is PepsiCo, not an outfit you would want as an enemy.

The shares sell on about 16 times this year's profits, which will not much improve in 1997 or in the year after that. The pure numbers, the multiple and the lack of any obvious profit recovery, suggest an element of bid premium still in the price. But a bidder would have to emerge fast, before any Labour government made hostile takeovers more difficult. That premium is taking a lot on faith.

Franc fault on the high seas

THE "Franc Fort" policy of Jacques Chirac's right-of-centre government is putting Frenchmen and women out of work. The flood of job losses in textiles and clothing has become such a potent political issue in some regions that on March 5 the Government caved in and offered to cut social charges to that

PENNINGTON



industry. Now the Breton shipbuilding lobby is set to have its way on subsidies for seamen.

Insurance and employment levies of one kind and another require all French firms to pay, on average, an additional sum equal to 41 per cent of the pre-tax salary of employees to the state for social welfare. In Britain, rightly or wrongly, the comparable figure is 18 per cent.

Such social charges, combined with an over-valued currency, make many French products far too expensive. Customers in France and elsewhere respond by buying them elsewhere — in the case of clothing from cheaper

manufacturers in the Far East, Italy, or even Britain. By the same token, to cross the Channel they prefer to take advantage of cheap fares from P&O, Stena or Eurotunnel, rather than pay the franc-based fares charged by Brittany Ferries.

Brittany Ferries is a funny old company at the best of times. Owned by a complex web of mainly public sector interests, its principal purpose seems to be to employ Bretons and bring tourists to the area, rather than turn a profit. This may be laudable, but any subsidies are unhelpful to its British, Swedish, and Anglo-French rivals.

Just like the French clothing makers, Brittany Ferries is struggling to stay afloat in a competitive market. So the French state is apparently poised to cut its own social charges. Fine if it offers the same saving to all employers, but targeting aid at ailing industries in an effort to preserve jobs is a flagrant breach of the Treaty of Rome. Rather than help the industry become

competitive, it simply defers the day of reckoning, presumably in the hope that unaided foreign rivals will collapse first. A job saved in France is all too often a job lost in Britain. You do not have to be a Eurosceptic to find that unacceptable.

Smoking gun behind Liggett settlement

CUT off an American lawyer's head, and he'll grow another dozen. This is why the expected settlement by Liggett, the US maker of Chesterfield cigarettes, among other brands, is a long way from final.

Of all the stupidities to come out of the American legal system, this settlement with four states and one class action is one of the dullest for some years because it requires the producer to spend as much as \$50 million a year weaning consumers off its products. Meanwhile, there are plenty more litigants out there who can only be encouraged into action.

The big producers are still required to maintain the fiction that tobacco has no proven bad effects on health, even though they accept a statistical link between smoking and certain diseases. Any lack of resolve when faced with litigation only weakens this stance and opens the door to yet more lawsuits.

In the US, that fiction has collided with an equal foolishness — that in a victim culture there must be a scapegoat to be sued for the harm smokers willingly do to their own health. Liggett's cave-in has more to do with the battle by its controlling shareholder to split up RJR Nabisco than any admission of guilt. There is no matching reason why other big producers should follow suit.

Capital city

SLEEPING with the enemy: Tradepoint arrived last year as a rival to the Stock Exchange with its own alternative trading network. The company is listed in Vancouver but, surprise, has chafed against the restrictions of such a quote and is now heading for the AIM kindergarten. London still has its uses, clearly — such as providing access to fresh cash for expansion?

Reckitt profit given boost by success of US integration

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

RECKITT & COLMAN, the household products group, said yesterday that it had successfully integrated L&F, the American cleaning goods firm for which it paid £1 billion in December 1994, helping to push pre-tax profits before exceptional up 5.5 per cent to £285 million last year.

Operating profits from continuing operations was up 22.6 per cent at £349 million, while turnover from continuing operations was up 20 per cent on 1994 at £2.31 billion, the company said.

Including exceptional, the group reported a pre-tax profit for last year of £418 million compared to £160 million in 1994. The jump was mainly attributable to the sale last May of Reckitt & Colman's food business, including Colman's of Norwich, the mustard company, and Robinson's, the drinks business.

The group, which is now focused on household goods and non-prescription drugs, producing the Lemsip, Dettol and Harpic brands, said the full dividend to be paid this year will be 20.15p, compared



Vernon Sankey: "platform"

to 18.66p last year. Its shares rose 34p to 655p, correcting recent falls based on fears that profits would come in lower.

The integration of L&F, which makes Lysol and other US market-leading disinfectants and cleaners, was not without problems, which had worried analysts. Reckitt & Colman was forced by the Federal Trade Commission to dispose of several US brands last year. Moreover, sales of key household products, such as Woolite, fell by 25 per cent

in the US last year owing to destocking while the group switched to L&F sales methods. Sales have since recovered.

The only remaining reorganisation in America involves the closure of up to four manufacturing plants.

Vernon Sankey, chief executive, said the US integration had gone well and he expected it to "set a platform for growth," particularly in emerging markets in Asia and Latin America, where it is expanding its operations.

The company said that it wants to become the world's leading household products company, continuing to concentrate on niche rather than mass-market products. Sales last year of OTC pharmaceuticals in Britain rose 6 per cent, helped by heavy demand for Lemsip during a flu epidemic at the beginning of the winter.

Mr Sankey said that the company did not intend to make any more major purchases in the next two years, but might buy more niche producers.

L&G to increase services after record year

LEGAL & GENERAL GROUP plans to increase its range of mortgage and deposit-based products, although it will stop short of offering customers a current account, David Prosser, chief executive, said yesterday (Marjanne Curphey writes).

"We are not interested in going into retail banking, but we do want to expand our existing investment and mortgage products," he added. Un-

veiling record pre-tax profits of £271.3 million for the year to December 31, Mr Prosser said L&G might make an acquisition to develop its presence in the mortgage market, although this was "not the highest priority".

The group also plans to increase telephone sales and develop its healthcare policy, launched last year. The pre-tax profit figure included £18 million paid out of the surplus

from the group's long-term life fund after L&G received permission from the Department of Trade and Industry to redistribute reserves.

Part of the credit was put towards an increase in the dividend, which rose to 24.4p (21.7p). The group's with-profits policyholders also benefited from a special bonus of £163 million paid from the surplus funds. This helped increase terminal bonuses on maturing policies

at a time when annual reversionary bonuses were slightly reduced.

Profit from worldwide life and pensions operations increased to £220 million (£168 million). The result includes a 38 per cent rise in UK life and pensions profit to £182 million (£131 million). General insurance profit rose to £42 million (£21 million) in spite of the £38 million cost of claims for subsidence and burst pipes.

Enterprise Oil tops expectations

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Enterprise Oil surged 33p to 420p yesterday after the group reported a rise in net profit of 43 per cent to £101.6 million, well ahead of market forecasts which ranged from £60 million to £90 million.

Analysts described Enterprise's statement on prospects as tremendous and very positive. The profits boost came from lower costs and higher production than expected.

Enterprise, which made a failed bid for Lasso two years ago, said it was open-minded about making an acquisition but has no current plans to buy, preferring to replace oil reserves by exploration rather than buying them in.

Enterprise intends to increase output to 300,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day (boepd) by 1999. Last year, production excluding Eilat/Enterprise averaged just over 200,000 boepd, a rise of 12 per cent. The costs of finding oil in 1995 fell to 73p a barrel compared to 112p in 1994 and

Tempus, page 26

Final held as Exco cuts back

By PATRICIA TEHAN

PROFITS at Exco, the money broker, more than halved last year, falling from £43.5 million to £18.3 million after dramatic falls in the volume of trading in the wholesale financial markets.

The massive reduction was in line with market forecasts, which had been revised after a profits warning last November. Most analysts had been looking for about £18 million. As a result, the shares rallied 10p yesterday to close at 117p.

The dividend for the year has been held at 9p, with the final payment of 6p due on May 31.

In the second half of last year Exco made cuts across all its businesses, reducing staff, and cutting telecommunications and marketing costs. On an annualised basis, Peter Edge, the chief executive, said savings were £15 million, of which 40 per cent were made last year and 60 per cent will be achieved in 1996.

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COATS VIYELLA, the UK's biggest clothing maker and the world's largest producer of thread, is to mount a £50 million overhaul, including job losses, after a 6 per cent fall in pre-tax profits before one-off gains to £142.6 million.

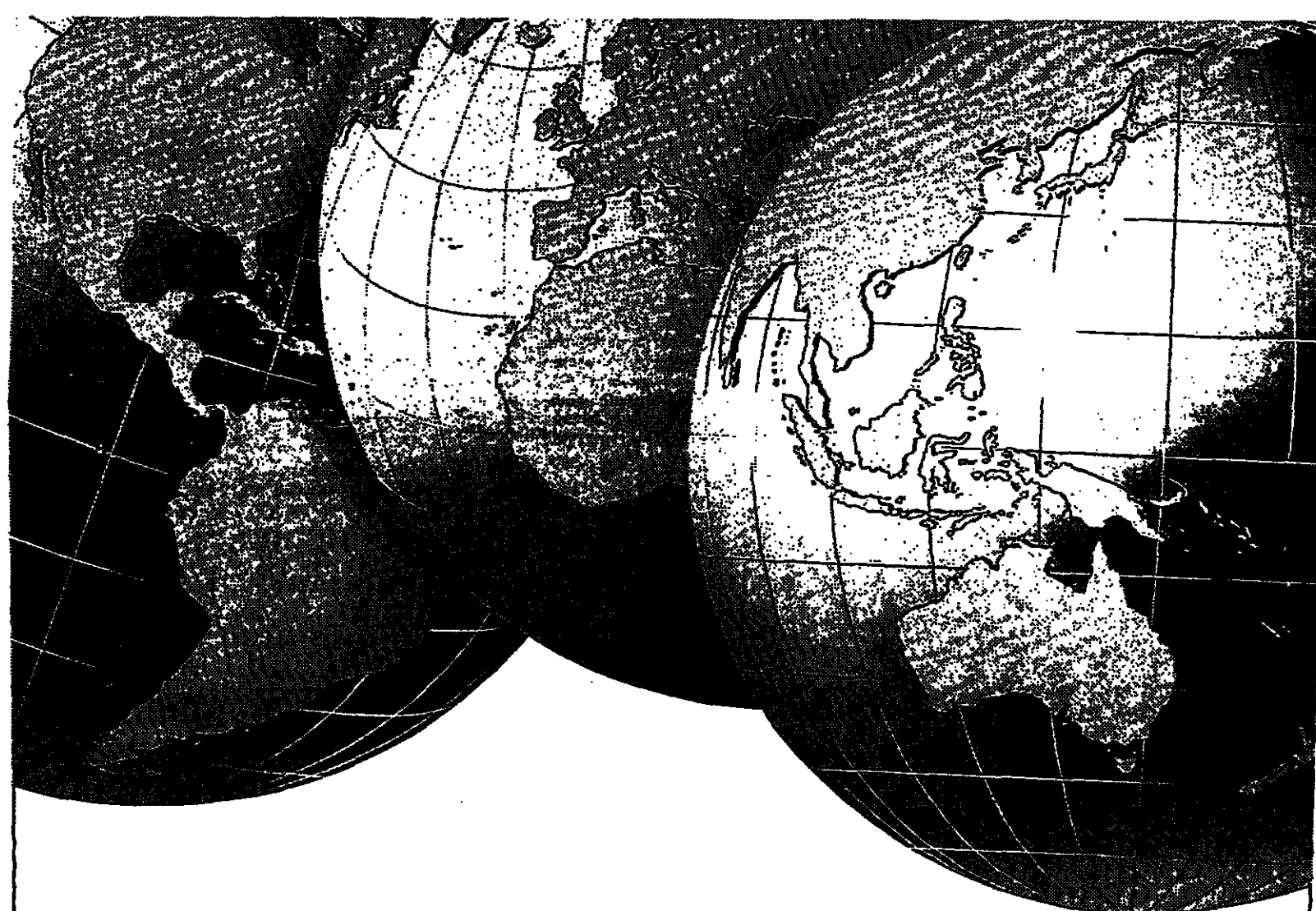
Coats had warned there would be disappointing results, blaming exceptional weather and high raw materials costs. It is aiming to realise cost savings of £10 million this year. £25 million next year and £35 million per year once the restructuring is complete. The shake-up will cover all

Tempus, page 26

major areas, including UK clothing, in which operating profit fell from £30.9 million to £20.5 million in the year to December 31. The falls came in contract work, while the branded operations, including Jaeger and Viyella, showed strong performances against a weak market.

Sir David Alliance, chairman, said: "Market conditions in 1995 bore little relation to any I have previously experienced. In our principal market we suffered from an unusually cold spring and an exceptionally warm autumn."

Tempus, page 26

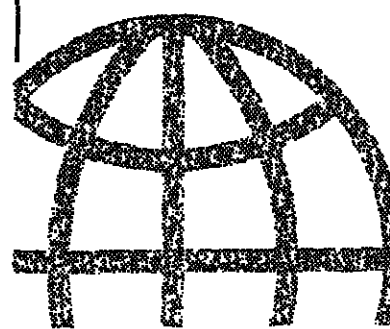


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	1995	1994	
Worldwide sales*	£9,010m	£8,280m	Up 9%
Profit before tax	£1,503m	£1,412m	Up 6%
Earnings per share†	24.9p	22.7p	Up 10%
Dividend per share			
Conventional equivalent	14.69p	13.50p	Up 9%
Payable as Foreign Income Dividend	16.075p	14.80p	Up 9%

* Continuing sales including acquisitions

† Fully diluted



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

It's good to chatter

TWO hundred teenage girls are excitedly packing pyjamas and Take That posters into overnight cases for a sleep-over at BT's training centre in Staffordshire tonight. The foray is part of a project to encourage teenage girls to enter male-dominated professions related to information technology. The girls will hold a video conference with a number of female role models, but it's lights out on the stroke of ten. A brave BT spokesman said: "We're aware there'll be a certain amount of chattering, but the event will be properly policed."

A man who can't

A TRAUMATIC time for the AA after a life-size cut-out of its Patroller of the Year was kidnapped from its Peterborough shop last week. One of his fingers was sent with a ransom demand. Then came a message from Heathrow that the man who can't have been abducted abroad.

On the hop

MIRROR GROUP chief executive, David Montgomery, was supplanted yesterday by a brown fluffy bunny with a rather smug grin. A younger brother of Live TV's notorious six-foot News Bunny, which hops in front of the cameras at the cable network to lighten the headlines, was a source of mirth among institutional shareholders at the results presentation.

Mean streak

DAVID PROSSER, chief executive at Legal & General, proved to be a party pooper at the company's results announcement yesterday. Prosser is thick with cold and in no mood to make merry, even though it is the 160th year since the foundation of L&G. "We won't be celebrating our birthday," he sniffed. "We're too mean, and we don't want to waste shareholders' money."



Setting a pace

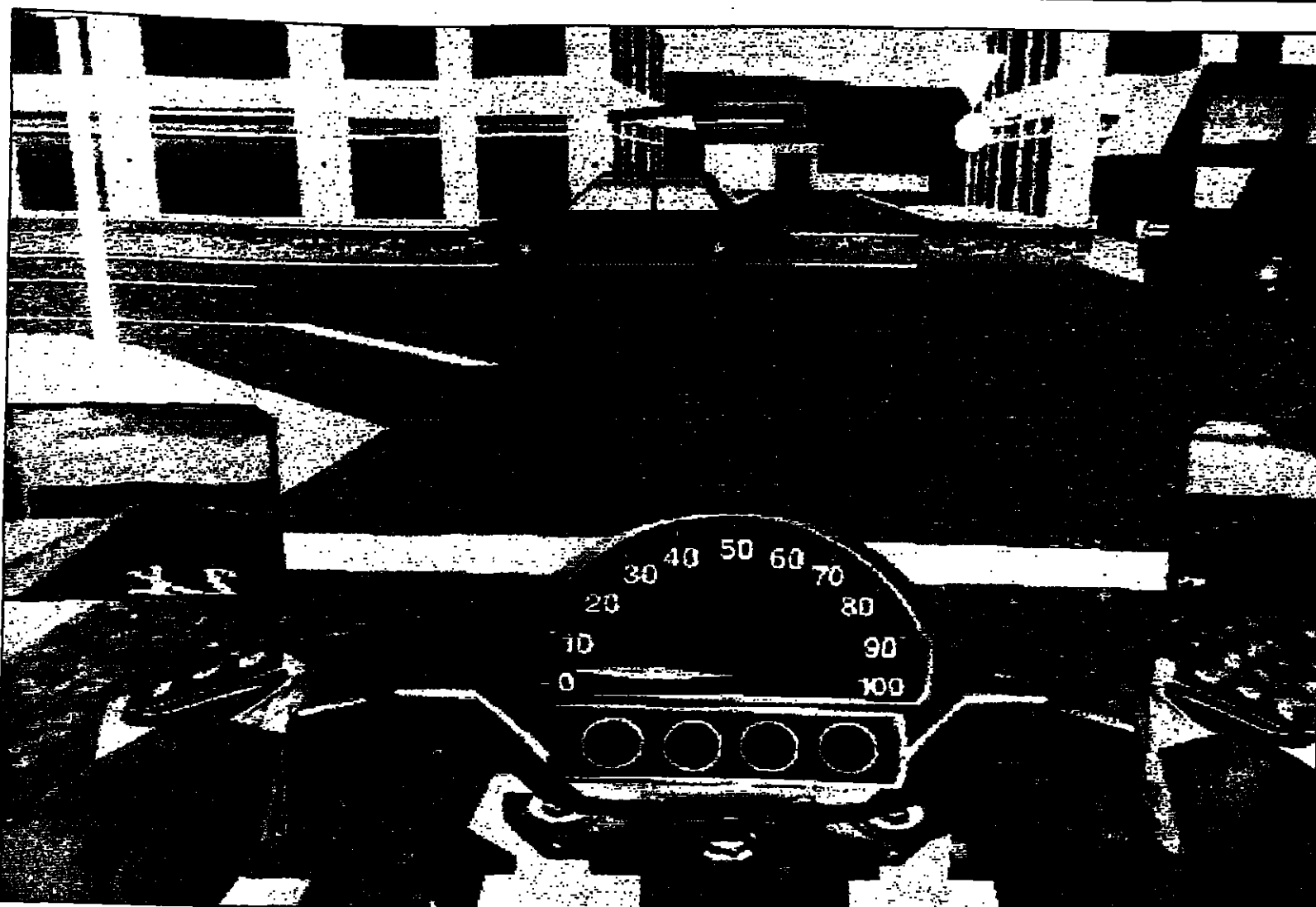
NIGEL WHITTAKER, who lost his job as Kingfisher's corporate affairs director a year ago, is joining Cardcast as non-executive chairman, doing two days a month at the anti-fraud group. This leaves time for his beloved marathon running. "I'm very competitive," boasts the man who used to do aerobics with Asda chief executive Archie Norman.

Prize orange

THE stakes are high at the soon-to-be launched Sunday Business, where associate editor Jason Nisse has promised a Chocolate Orange to the winner of the best scoop in the paper's first edition. The prize is being kept well hidden after arriving in a bumper freebie from Cadbury Schweppes.

Gold touch

FORMER show jumper and chief economist at Abbey National, Margaret Schwarz, is modest in her gambling. She put £1 on Imperial Call to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup. At 9-2, Schwarz was £5.50 richer, including her stake, so she indulged the team in a packet of chocolate biscuits. Said Mrs Midas: "I knew that if I put any more on, it wouldn't have won."



Dummy run: a motorcycle simulator developed for Kawasaki, the Japanese manufacturer, under a deal signed with the Virtuality Group

Virtually there but in realistic investment terms not yet 'big'

The potential of the telemedia industry looks to be huge. Alasdair Murray assesses its current state

Even if Viewcall Europe, a tiny, quoted high-tech company, proves to be a dud ultimately, investment in its business vision of the future cannot be faulted. The company has developed a system connecting a television with the Internet to provide online services such as home shopping, news, games and even cheap phone calls via a small black box, similar to a satellite decoder.

It is this kind of high-tech product, employing technology from the media, computer and telecom industries that is exciting all three sectors. From virtual reality motorbikes to Internet access provision services, the potential of what some are dubbing the "telemedia" industry appears to be unlimited.

Anthony D'Abreu, a director of EIP, the consultants, chaired the first IBC conference on telemedia finance earlier this week. He said: "The cable and satellite sectors consist largely of done deals. But the City is desperate to learn, with all the hype surrounding new media, how quickly the telemedia sector is set to boom."

To date, the investment potential of the new products remains largely unfulfilled. The investment profile of UK companies working in new technology areas cannot match that commanded by rivals in America. UK Internet companies such as Firefox have opted to float in America on NASDAQ, where stock market ratings are up to four times higher than those offered by the more conservative London Stock Exchange.

Dr Peter Englander, a director of Apex, the venture capital group that has invested in a number of telemedia stocks, said: "There is an incredible wealth of talent in these sectors but there is not a huge amount of understanding among larger companies and the investment community."

Investors are hampered by the highly fragmented market. Companies at the cutting edge

of the new technologies are usually small and invariably loss-making. Predictions of future performance are based more on star-gazing than statistics. The mainly young founders of the companies are also inexperienced and this provokes scepticism among potential backers. Patrick Sheehan, investment director at 3i, the venture capital group, said: "The founders often spoil the message by coming across as too technical and too enthusiastic."

If any single development has led the way in the growth of the telemedia it is the Internet, which has the potential to deliver into the home and office everything from virtual reality games to a favourite newspaper. The market is already attracting the attention of big players such as Microsoft and BT, which announced plans last month for providing an internet service to home users.

But the telecom and computer companies' early push on to the Internet has proved clumsy and inadequate. Microsoft was forced to admit earlier this year that it had not taken the potential of the net seriously enough.

This has left the field open to the specialists. Many of the small pioneering Internet companies are set to come to the market over the next couple of years, hoping to repeat the success of Unipalm, the Internet access provider, which was last year's top performing share. EasyNet of London is launching on the AIM next week in an attempt to fund an aggressive expansion campaign.

The Internet market was worth around £35 million in the UK last year, according to a report prepared by Durlacher Multimedia. But, if anticipated growth rates of 200 per cent per annum are fulfilled, the market in the UK

should reach around £900 million by 2000. The global market in Internet access provision alone is predicted to reach £12.5 billion by the end of the decade.

Competition will intensify and making profits will be difficult. In the medium-term a few major players will come to dominate the market, benefiting from economies of scale, telecoms purchasing power and software discounting. Durlacher predicts that BT and Microsoft could grab at least 25 per cent of the market. Cable companies are also expected to enter the fray. The combination of cable and

Internet company UUnet at the end of last year.

In the same way that the small Internet companies have used their specialist skills to outmanoeuvre established telemedia companies, the pioneers in the field of virtual reality have raced ahead of the computer giants.

Virtuality is one of the companies at the forefront of virtual reality technology, supplying arcade games, simulators and a portable virtual reality headset which can be plugged into a computer. The company has attracted the attention of electronic groups such as IBM, Philips and Motorola, who have all taken stakes. It has also signed a licensing agreement with Atari, the Japanese computer firm, to develop games, and recently sealed a deal with Kawasaki, the motorcycle manufacturer, to provide the technology for a motorcycle simulator.

The worldwide virtual reality market is predicted to grow from its current £200 million to around £1 billion by the end of the decade. Growth is likely to be driven initially by the games side before the business potential, ranging from training to aids for architecture and design, really takes off. But Virtuality has had a bumpy ride on the stock market. Although an initial surge took the company from a flotation price of 170p to 350p, the shares have slipped back and currently stand at 250p.

Dr Englander believes Virtuality has suffered because UK investors are used to a stream of earnings. Although the company broke even in the second half of last year, it is yet to make a profit. He said: "There is often a gap before the company's performance reflects the value of their products. Investors need to understand that it takes time for markets to develop and for



Michael Rodd: taking AIM

Internet is BT's worst nightmare because it could make high-quality, long-distance calls available at little more than local rates.

But smaller companies such as Demon, EasyNet and UUnet can probably survive if they make the most of their head start on the rest of the market. The hefty start-up costs and inevitable teething problems of an internet service mean that the market will become increasingly unattractive to new entrants. The industry is more likely to consolidate through bids and joint ventures — witness the takeover of Unipalm by US

Awards that are more than just a celebration

Martin Barrow looks at how a social event gained a wider significance

They said it would never last. But the PLC Awards enter their tenth year as one of the City's main social events.

Hastily cobbled together in just five weeks, the inaugural awards took place in March 1987, scheduled uneasily between Big Bang and the Big Crash. Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister and Nigel Lawson was Chancellor as some 220 guests gathered in a smoke-filled livery hall in the heart of the City.

Gyles Brandreth was the guest speaker at the first awards — originally named the USM Awards, and with membership restricted to the founding companies of the junior Unlisted Securities Market.

Winners in the inaugural event, which celebrated the successes of 1986, inevitably included Howard Hodgson, the entrepreneur whose long hair and sharp suits were, in those days, cutting a dash in the funeral business which, it must be said, has never been the same since. Cannon Street Investments and Anglia Secure Homes also won places on the podium, while financial advisers mentioned in dispatches included County and Capel Cure Myers.

One year later, a voting panel that included Tony Berry and Debbie Moore chose among winners Sophie Mirman and Acis Jewellery, another two names closely associated with the successes and excesses of the late 1980s.

Ten years on, the awards, now organised by Coopers & Lybrand in association with The Times, have defied the odds to become firmly established in the City's busy social calendar. More than 1,200 guests gathered at London's Grosvenor House Hotel last night, where awards were presented to the 1995 winners. Tickets for the event were sold out last August and already many tables are booked for next year's awards.

The awards have developed into more than just an annual celebration. They have become a respected forum for the smaller companies whose numbers comprise the vast majority of

businesses listed on the stock market. They helped to sustain investor interest in smaller companies in the depths of the recession of the early 1990s, when the Stock Exchange was less than enthusiastic in helping to maintain and develop a market in their shares.

This year, for the first time, an award was presented to the AIM company of the year, marking the establishment of the Alternative Investment Market to succeed the Unlisted Securities Market. It is valid to ask whether AIM would ever have come into existence were it not for the intense pressure brought to bear by lobby groups that originated from the PLC awards.

The prestige of the awards has been acknowledged by a succession of guest speakers from the world of politics, business and entertainment, including Michael Heseltine, Norman Tebbit and Sir Tim Bell. And companies now genuinely vie for honours — for example, last year one group openly canvassed its shareholders for votes.

Long gone are the days when nomination alone was considered a mixed blessing and investors spent the following weeks in anticipation of a profit warning or share price collapse. It is the nightmare that voting panels fear, and inevitably there have been failures.

But the PLC Awards do have a track record that bears up well to close scrutiny. Last year, David Lloyd was hailed as the top entrepreneur, an achievement clearly recognised by Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, which promptly took over his company. Recent winners of the company of the year award include First Technology, Rotork, Ashtead, Medeva and T&S, who continue to make their presence felt in the smaller company sector. Hozlock, the latest winner, has developed a substantial and soundly financed business based on one of Britain's best-known brand names and has a highly regarded corporate strategy to further develop the brand in overseas markets.



Past winner David Lloyd, left, with Peter Jarvis

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Responses to the Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal offer to names

From Mr G.D.V. Glynn
Sir, With regard to the article "Lloyd's aiming to boost £2.8bn offer" (March 11) and to remarks by Sally Noel, I would point out that, under the reconstruction and renewal offer, where Mrs Noel and others like her have an arguable case in law, they will be fairly compensated. Names join Lloyd's under the principle of unlimited liability and are extremely lucky to have their losses capped at any price. How much more charity do

these people expect from their fellow names? Particularly those trying to carry on, who often, at great sacrifice, have honourably paid their losses, will be in receipt of none of the debt credits, have seen their Central Fund decimated, and are now expected to subsidise the can't-pays and, even worse, the won't-pays by a very expensive special levy. Yours faithfully,
G.D.V. GLYNN,
Hilliersdon House,
Cullompton, Devon.

From Mr John Strafford
Sir, My wife has received her indicative offer from Lloyd's — not as much as we had hoped for, and not as bad as we had feared, but on a level to encourage us towards acceptance, which hopefully, the final figures that are to be released in May will confirm. Of course, in our heart of hearts, we would have liked more, but logic dictates that the bottom of the barrel has been, or is about to be,

reached. Hopefully, reasoned lobbying will persuade Lloyd's to improve, at the least, the offers to the worst affected names, but then let us call it a day and accept. The alternative to this is to go down with the ship, and where is the sense in that? Yours faithfully,
JOHN STRAFFORD,
Strangers Drift,
Weston-on-the-Green,
Bicester,
Oxfordshire.

Ministers must act over late payers

From Mr Richard Burton
Sir, Tony Bonner's comment (Analysis, February 22) on the ongoing debate around late payment comes from the comfortable view of a sizeable manufacturing company. The service sector is a rather different world. My own business makes a small but positive contribution to the balance of pay-

ments, exporting expertise in marketing and advertising to emerging markets in Russia and South Africa. We are constantly hampered by late payment by clients — indeed it is one of the main obstacles to be overcome in everyday work.

I support Mr Bonner's conclusion that the solution is partly offered by "better and speedier court procedures to obtain judgment and enforcement". The legal system is presently far too tortuous a

route for companies to use in obtaining funds owed, and the problem is that there are too many businesses who, realising this, deliberately make commitments without the intention of honouring them.

It really is very naive for Mr Bonner to believe that "we should be looking to clean up our own act, rather than looking to Government to solve the problem for us". Government's role is to create the right environment for business, and it is wrong to

dismiss legislation out of hand. One area which Government could act in would be making a company's payment record readily accessible. This degree of openness would encourage prompt payment.

Government must act — it is not enough to leave it to pressure groups like the CBI, which, in any case, is not funded by small business. Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BURTON
(Director, Red Fish),
6 Dean Street, W1.

هكذا من الرضا

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Rodney Hobson reports on the Association of Project Managers annual awards, which were announced at its dinner last night

Quibbles, cost overruns and litigation are blighting too many of Britain's public and private projects. The report into the construction industry by Sir Michael Latham, the former Conservative deputy chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, has painted a picture of an industry that fails to meet the needs of its customers, that is fragmented and divided and which suffers from poor communications.

This assessment has been boosted by a more recent report by Sir Peter Levene, the Prime Minister's adviser on efficiency. He looked at 20 government projects and found that the average cost overrun was 24 per cent, adding more than £500 million to the total cost. That did not include the extra £800 million costs of facilities for Trident in Scotland but included such prestige projects as the British Library and the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital.

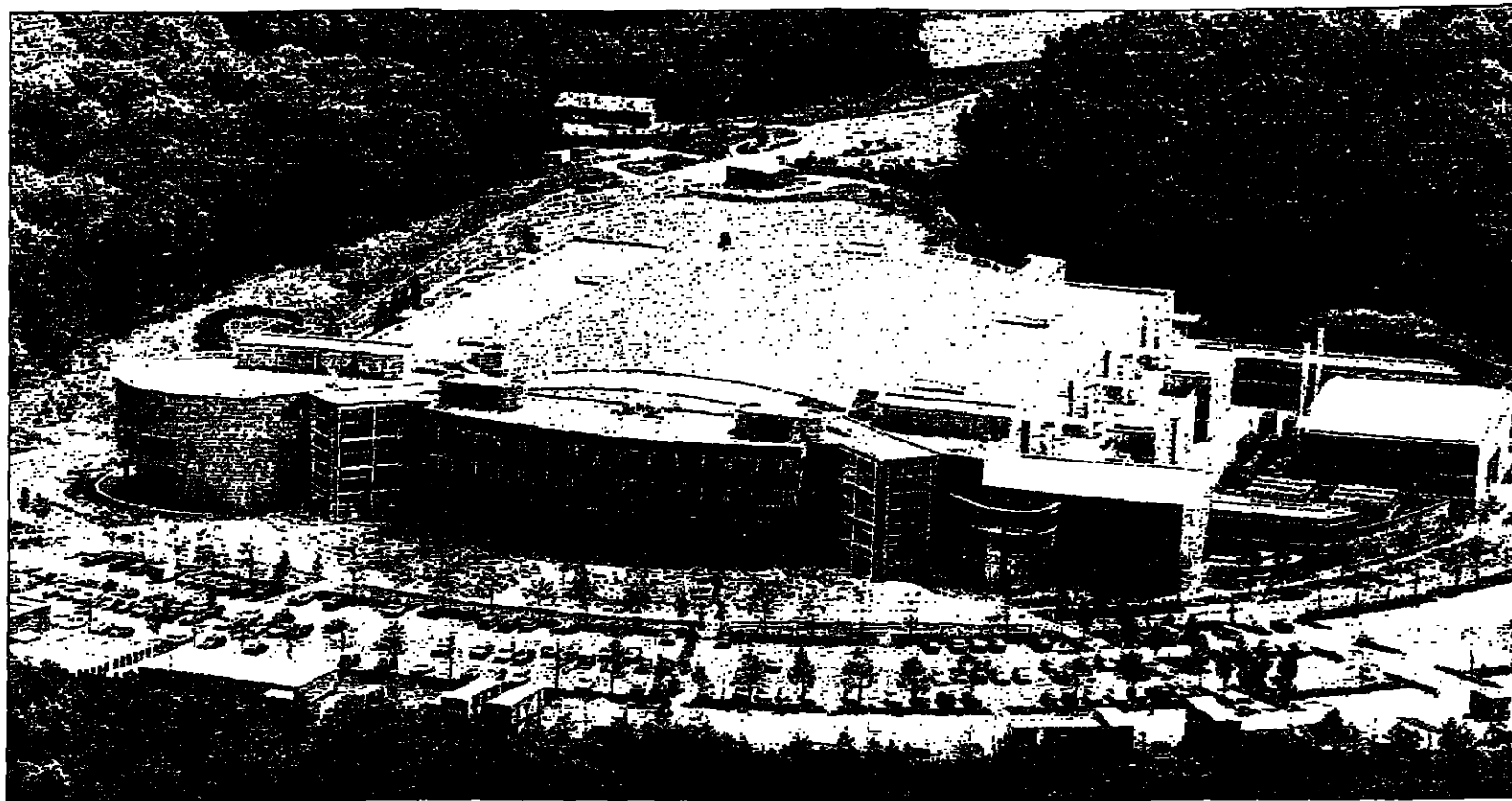
Sir Peter called for a review by every department by the end of this month of all projects costing more than £1 million. He wants a centre for project advice in the Treasury so that projects can be properly managed and, tellingly, he wants jobs to be given to the companies that provide the best service, not necessarily the lowest price.

The construction industry, having failed to recover from the recession of the early 1990s, is still in the doldrums, so calls for a grip on big projects could point the way forward.

Project managers would welcome any moves towards ensuring that one competent company or person takes overall control from the start. Though project management has only comparatively recently been considered as a profession in its own right, it is growing rapidly.

The Association of Project Managers (APM) was formed in 1972 to advance the discipline and to promote the professional development of project managers in all business areas. It is affiliated to the International Project Management Association (IPMA), which includes the national associations of 20 countries.

In the first 15 years, members were drawn primarily from professionals involved with capital investment projects in the construction and engineering industries. In the past decade, the use of professional project management has extended to a wide range of industries and market sectors, ranging from sport and leisure to corporate restructuring, marketing and information technology.



Project of the Year: Bovis won the award for building this £120 million air traffic control centre at Southampton, the most advanced in the UK

Building a better UK and saving billions



David Waboso: Project Manager of the Year



Peter Dutton: won the Sir Monty Finniston award

which the most mundane of activities are being identified as projects and are having individuals assigned to champion them in the formal role of project manager.

But he says: "While this is excellent news for the profession, as well as the association, it increases pressure on the association to ensure that the

message of the need for proper training and adherence to the correct professional standards is spread as widely as possible as quickly as possible."

The APM is developing proposals for a membership structure that gives a ladder to climb from student membership to fellow. At present, there are four levels of membership:

rewards can be considerable. Strategic Sales Training International (SSTI), a consultancy specialising in assessing the capabilities of project managers, believes that British industry could save millions of pounds every year by improving the performance of its project managers.

The company reckons that an estimated £100 billion is spent annually on projects in the UK and that about 250,000 people are engaged in project management. That means that if project managers improved their performance by just 1 per cent, industry would benefit by £1 billion a year.

Tony Davis, who set up SSTI, says: "Project management is different from sales management in that there are 40 competencies as opposed to ten in sales."

"Traditionally, project managers would evolve into the job. They were usually good organisers within companies. But now very senior people are beginning to say that we need to know about the quality of our project managers."

● Award winners page 31

Pioneers of a world standard

Co-ordinating qualifications in project management at an international level is the next major development in the profession. The Association of Project Managers, based in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is leading the march towards internationally recognised standards.

Peter Morris, its chairman, says it is of secondary importance whether this will lead to chartered status for the profession. Dr Morris says: "What we really need is external accreditation, something we are pursuing through our affiliation to the Zurich-based International Project Management Association."

The APM has pioneered an international certification qualification—a test of competence—based on the association's own certification process.

Whether a candidate is awarded certification depends on his or her role and level of responsibility in managing a project. This will vary between industries, but to qualify even for consideration, experience in managing a multidisciplinary team in an in-house project is needed.

The ideal candidate, however, will have international experience of managing a multidisciplinary project involving several companies. A candidate is allowed three tries at certification. Success confers international peer recognition which, the APM believes, helps the holder to find opportunities for his skills in different industries in the UK and abroad.

For more than two years, the APM worked with teams from The Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Germany and Austria to prepare a European Certification programme. The Dutch led the way in implementing it, when ten Dutch project managers last October became the first ones in the profession, outside the UK, to gain certification. Fifteen more Dutch project managers, as well as the first 20 executives from Germany, have since received the accolade. But the Swiss are only just getting off the starting line, and certification programmes in France and Austria have yet to be brought into line with IPMA practice.

Richard Pharro, the managing director of APM Group Limited, the association's trading arm, finds that cultural differences, "national foibles and nuances," have to be considered. "The not-invented-here syndrome evidently applies in France and Austria," he says. "In France a project management certification candidate has to give an oral report to a jury. But in Britain and most of our IPMA partner countries, the procedure is basically to submit a written report, followed by an interview with two assessors."

Mr Pharro, who pioneered the European certification scheme, is also critical of the Austrian approach. "They think that a five-day training course before certification is appropriate procedure, but most of the IPMA does not agree. You're either competent or you aren't, and we fail to see what value such a short course can add. A five-day writing course wouldn't turn an Oxford graduate into a journalist."

DAVID RUDNICK

National foibles have to be considered

project managers move to the next millennium

The Association of Project Managers is offering

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The APM Professional (APMP)

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View of No 1 Poultry from the Royal Exchange

One of Germany's largest property development and project management companies, Advanta Management AG, based in Frankfurt, specialises in acquiring and developing high profile prestigious projects in Western and Eastern Europe.

Advanta Management AG have agreed to sponsor the APM "Project of the Year" Award for 5 years (1996-2000). The competition is open to all Corporate Members of the APM and projects from all business sectors can be nominated provided that they can satisfy the base criteria of management innovation, demonstrable success despite a difficult and demanding client brief and other criteria, technical excellence and all-round project management competence. The Project Sponsor/Client also receives an Award.

Advanta Management AG, through the London office of their subsidiary company Altstadtbau Ltd, are currently developing/project managing Number 1 Poultry in the City of London in a joint venture with Lord Palumbo. This landmark project is being constructed to the outstanding design of the late Sir James Stirling, in association with Michael Wilford & Partners Ltd., and is due for completion in 1997; it will provide top quality accommodation and facilities for the 21st Century. The design provides for a direct access to Bank Underground Station.

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Roger Lilley, project manager of Ashford International passenger station; the E240 million South Yorks Supertram; and June Bretherton, a blind former teacher and manager of a BT exhibition designed to help the sighted feel what it is like to be sightless

The high-flyers

A £120 million project to provide the UK with its largest and most advanced air traffic control centre has won Bovis the Project of the Year award.

The winner was announced last night at the annual dinner of the Association of Project Managers at the Savoy Hotel. David Waboso of the Nichols Group was named Project Manager of the Year for his work on London's Docklands Light Railway, while Peter Dunton, a project management consultant for IBM (UK), collected the Sir Monty Finniston award — named after the late industrialist — for his contribution to the profession.

Bovis received its award for the construction of the New En Route Centre at Southampton. It is the backbone of the Civil Aviation Authority's £750 million investment aimed at taking its air traffic control operations into the 21st century. The award was sponsored by Advana Management AG, the Frankfurt-based German development company whose project management subsidiary, Altstadtbau Ltd, is involved in large-scale developments such as No 1 Poultry in the City of London.

Bovis also secured third place in the annual competition with its restoration of 99 Bishopsgate, the nearest building to the 1993 IRA bomb explosion in the City.

Transport figured well up in the nominations list. The South Yorks Supertram earned Turner & Townsend Project Management, based at Leeds, the runner-up slot in the category. The £240 million electric tramway is the largest UK transportation venture undertaken outside London and, using T&T management techniques, was completed on time and to budget.

Rodney Hobson spotlights the nominations at the APM awards

The £29 million Jewellery Line linking Birmingham Snow Hill and the Stourbridge network of rail services earned Railtrack a nomination. Railtrack, a new sponsor, teamed up with British Rail to back the Project Manager of the Year award for the person demonstrating the most effective practice of project management skills in a specific operation. The £3,000 award was open to project managers of any age, nationality, experience and background.

Mr Waboso, the winner, who lives in Leyton, east London, was Docklands Light Railway's project manager for the resignalling operation from January 1994 until June 1995, working with an operating railway where time to commission and test was strictly limited and the impact on the travelling public had to be minimised.

The number of passengers travelling on DLR's 22km network has increased from a daily 7,500 in 1987 to about 50,000 passenger journeys a day now. This number is expected to continue to rise significantly.

Other contenders included Roger Lilley, project manager of Ashford International passenger station, the final link providing high-speed rail services to major European cities via the Channel Tunnel.

Steve Novis, a project manager from West Clandon, near Guildford, was nominated for managing the £5 million Stansted Tower project. The airport tower is due to be commissioned next month.

Mr Novis works for W. S. Atkins Project Management of Epsom, Surrey.

June Bretherton, a blind former teacher, was also in the running for the individual award. Mrs Bretherton, of Upminster, Essex, was nominated for her achievement as manager of the BT Dialogue in the Dark exhibition last summer. The exhibition was designed to help sighted people to experience what it is like to be sightless.

Dr Dunton, of Weston Turville, Buckinghamshire, won the Sir Monty Finniston award, given to the person considered to have made an outstanding contribution to developing the art and science of project management. The presentation was made by Lady Finniston.

Dr Dunton's winning paper looked at projects from the business sponsor's perspective and identified the business benefits involved. AEA Technology and IBM supported the Sir Monty Finniston award.



Steve Novis with the £5 million Stansted Tower project

Join the professionals

The Association of Project Managers (APM) is the guardian of professional standards. David Rudnick writes. Since 1992 it has awarded the qualification of Certified Project Manager (CPM) to those at the top of the profession.

To qualify you need to have managed a "significant" project and have submitted a 5,000-word paper on it, signed and verified by both your boss and your project client. You are then grilled by two qualified CPMs, one of them from your own immediate professional background. Dr Peter Morris, APM's chairman, estimates that the failure rate is between 25 and 30 per cent.

In June the association is introducing a new qualification, the APM Professional (APMP), open to anyone able to demonstrate a basic knowledge of project management, backed by three years' competent experience.

Dr Morris explains: "Applicants will have to pass a written examination and any borderline cases sit an interview. The APMP will fit on top

of the newly emerging National Qualifications in project management."

The association sees itself as spearheading a drive towards greater professionalism. In 1998 membership of APM will be conditional on passing a

written entrance examination and demonstrating five years of successful project management. The new regime is a response to increasing demands from leading clients for formal qualifications guaranteeing competence.

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WHAT IS A PROJECT MANAGER?

PROJECT management in the construction industry has increased tenfold in the past five years, Rodney Hobson writes. This is because the use of project managers by government departments and by leading property developers has filtered down to commerce and industry at large, says Peter Cline, a partner in Procon Project Management.

Although most of the new breed have a construction-related qualification — such as civil engineering, quantity surveying or architecture — they are mostly attached to partnerships, whose main work is outside project management, with only a few in

independent, specialised practices.

Project managers are usually worth employing in the construction industry only when the development cost is more than £1 million. Mr Cline says: "A good project manager will usually be able to save you far more than they cost to employ by turning in a quality job on budget and on time."

"The competent project manager will advise on contracts and contractors, help to set the plan and create the team. If you bring them in earlier still, they will research and write a business plan for the main board."

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■ POP 1

Dance music for thinkers? The Beloved, with or without clothes, have redefined the genre



■ POP 2

Men, women and the need for common courtesy, all set to the disco beat of the Afghan Whigs

THE TIMES POP ARTS



■ POP 3

Is the musical climate more hospitable now to Lush's spiky charms and verbal duels?



■ POP 4

...and can another long-running local outfit, Definition of Sound, make the breakthrough with Experience?

Hit dance duo the Beloved tell Alan Jackson why taking their clothes off makes Top Ten sense

How to add flesh to the beat

Some performers bare their bodies in the cause of art, and Jon and Helena Marsh are among them. But, and here they steal a march on even the most exhibitionist of their fellow musicians, the couple also bare their brains. The cover to their new single, *Satellite*, shows their two heads face-to-face and, courtesy of sophisticated medical technology, fully exposed in reverse X-ray.

This impulse for self-exposure was first exercised in the promotional video for *Sweet Harmony*, the 1993 Top Ten hit for their dance band the Beloved, which featured Jon sitting naked amid a number of similarly under-dressed female models. Rank exploitation, you might say. In fact, the film had a chaste, almost virginal aura, as if it had been shot in the Garden of Eden, pre-serpent. "But wherever we went to promote the record, that video was the image people had of us," they say. "So we thought we might as well use it to further our cause."

Which is why the promotional clip for *Satellite* finds them wide-eyed and clothesless for a second time. Because of the track's anthemic, celebratory feel, the visual mood is far less mellow than before — there is more silhouetted dancing than in the opening credits to a vintage Bond flick. But, despite its still-innocent atmosphere, fast edits and distinct lack of leering camera angles, mainstream TV viewers in Britain are likely to remain alone among Europeans in being unable to see it.

Happily, the Marshes bring me my own copy when they call round to chat: we discover that we are relatively near-neighbours, and so opt for this *Hello!*-like, welcome-



They may appear fully clothed here, but rest assured that Jon and Helena Marsh are starkers underneath

inside-my-lovely-home scenario rather than the usual meeting in a record company office or convenient pub. And they're fully dressed too. "We've been wondering what to do next, to keep the momentum going," Jon says. "I think invasive surgery could be the final frontier. We could make an endoscopy video — if Madonna doesn't think of it first." However, the duo is already ahead of the Queen of Pop. Her book *Sex*

may have revealed many things, but not the singer's brain tissue.

"Record companies always want nice, conventional images of their bands, and that's understandable," Helena says. "But our view is that there must be some more interesting or challenging way of presenting yourself to the public." Thus the videos, although these were possible only because the directors were friends of theirs.

"There's no way we'd take our clothes off for total strangers," Jon says, shocked by the idea.

That they did so under any circumstances, however, is symptomatic of the Beloved's continuing determination to challenge the status quo. Although stemming from the club culture that exploded around Britain in 1988, the two recognise that many consumers are nervous of music with a dance tag and don't allow themselves to be ex-

posed to it. "The majority of club sounds that cross over to the mainstream are monotonous and endlessly repetitive," says Helena, who sings behind Jon's distinctively polite yet hypnotic lead vocals. By laying conventional song structures — middle-eight and all — over house grooves straight from the urban American scene, and then adding to the mix considered and sometimes provocative lyrics, they achieve their star-

ed aim of making dance music "that has more to say than just 'Wave your hands in the air like you just don't care'".

Jon says. Having sidestepped the path which led directly from his south London public school to a career in the City, he also passed up the chance to study philosophy at Manchester University in order to pursue a career in music. By the time, six years ago, that he met Helena (in a club, inevitably), he had formed the Beloved with Steve Waddington, and released a well-received debut LP, *Happiness*. She, meanwhile, had left her job as a fashion buyer, having become disillusioned with the values of the high fashion world. When the original Beloved partnership fractured, she joined Jon in making music. Shortly afterwards, they married.

His weekend itinerary as a roving DJ Shindigs upon Tyne, Back to Basics in Leeds and London's Ministry of Sound are among his favourite venues — prevents the arrangement from becoming too cosy, and also keeps the two abreast of the dance world. "I don't think you can underestimate how important it is to be so many people now," Jon says. "And although it's sometimes disturbing to witness formulaic behavioural patterns in that environment, I can honestly say it's the most extraordinary feeling to play the right record at the right time and watch 1,000 people go mad to it. It surpasses any reaction you get as a band playing onstage."

● *Satellite* is released by East-West on Monday. The Beloved's new album, *X*, will follow next month.

Room for a Lush on top

NEW ALBUMS: Former arty types get a Britpop leg-up; more Beatles rarities

The lyrics of songs such as *I've Been Here Before* and *Single Girl* explore some of the darker corners of boy-girl relationships. "You don't need a girlfriend, you need a life," Miki Berenyi sings in *The Childcatcher*, one of several

songs on which troublesome men are instructed to take a hike. Only once does the man get to answer back, on *Ciao*, which is not so much a vocal duet as a verbal duel with Pulp's Jarvis Cocker: "It's been a non-stop party since I

flew the coop/I can't believe I fell for such a loser like you." Lush are the product of an era when British pop groups with "alternative" credentials routinely failed to gain access to the mainstream. Thankfully, all that has changed, and *Lovelife* has the kind of spiky charm that suggests their affairs on a more ambitious scale.

spectrum with an infectious ease and confidence.

Pass the *Vibes*, which was surely inspired by the old Zombies hit, *Time of the Season*, was one of the best singles of last year, and here it is joined by its companion piece, *Boom Boom*, which makes prominent use of a piano riff sampled from the Moody Blues song *Go Now*. Elsewhere, bluesy acoustic guitar riffs, soul-funk grooves, spaced-out raps and full-bodied conventional tunes all provide grist to the mill, producing an album full of pleasant surprises.

THE BEATLES

Anthology 2 (Apple/EMI 8 34448; two discs)

THE second instalment in the *Anthology* series covers the years from 1965 to 1968, and presumably we all know the drill by now. Apart from the one "new" single, *Real Love*, the double album is crammed with early demo versions, obscure live recordings, rejected takes of songs and other curiosities from the era that produced *Help!*, *Rubber Soul*, *Revolver* and *Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*.

This was a period of phenomenally rapid development for the Beatles and, as such, the music on *Anthology 2* falls into two distinct camps. On the first disc, when the group were still recording their songs more or less the way they were playing them live, there are versions of *Yesterday* (without the strings), *Got To Get You Into My Life* (without the brass), *Taxman* (with different backing vocals) and others, together with dodgy concert recordings of *I Feel Fine*, *Ticket To Ride*, *Help!* and so forth.

However things get more interesting on disc two, by which time the band had

begun to use the studio as virtually an instrument in itself, recording multiple versions of songs such as *Strawberry Fields Forever* and *A Day in the Life* and then choosing and moulding the finished arrangements from a variety of possible alternatives. Accordingly, there is more substance to be found in what was left off the official releases, and the newly concocted versions on *Anthology 2* offer a glimpse of the different routes that various numbers might have taken.

But as songs from *Good Morning Good Morning* to *I Am the Walrus* are stripped down to their musical underpinnings, some of their magic is lost along the way. Like *Anthology 1* this may be an important historical artefact, but, with the exception of a handful of tracks (out of 45), it is not an album that bears repeated listening.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Greg Dulli is a gentleman. This is why he is sporting a fetching black eye. A woman in a bar was being accosted by a man attempting to slime her out of the building — every faux compliment and piece of heavy-handed flirting in the book — until she became distressed and wanted to throw her drink in his face, notch his shins with her heels.

Unfortunately, notwithstanding all this new ladette nonsense, women still aren't in a position to do these kind of crazy, necessary things. But Dulli, who'd been scoping the scene with ever-narrowing eyes, was the king of sime got a chair over the head, and Dulli got a black eye. The leader of the Afghan Whigs believes in manners.

"Well, yeah," he confirms, taking a Vulcan-sized drag on his cigarette and letting the smoke swirl around the ceiling. "You have mankind on the one side of the river, and apes on the other. It's called evolution, and that river we crossed was Politeness. The world is crowded, the issues are complicated — politeness is the only way we can keep an acceptable distance from our fellow humans. I don't think it's acceptable to foist your sweaty ass on a lady who's busy drinking."

It's not surprising that Dulli waded into the fray. His sensors are forever being set clanging by male/female relationships — the lies and betrayals, the steaming sexual jealousy and possessiveness, and the almost terminal inability of most of us to truly love, forsaking all others, until death do us part.

Dulli is a past master of explaining the itch that a woman can inspire in a man, and there is a suggestion that his most destructive tendency is to recognise every amoral urge within himself. Dulli, you sense, goes into nothing blindly. His creative stomping ground is instinct, passion and subsequent immorality versus reason, logic and courtesy. Where reason meets lust is where the Afghan Whigs exploded into being.

Dulli comes from a Greek/Irish background, and was raised by his sister, mother and grandmother. At the beginning of the grunge boom, in the early 1990s, the Afghan Whigs signed to Sub Pop, former home of Nirvana. But although they wore the grunge uniform of tattered Lewis cut-offs, check shirts and hedge-like hair — Dulli: "Yeah, they make you wear that stuff when you sign to Sub

Pop: it's in the contract." — it was immediately apparent the Whigs weren't even skating in the vicinity of grunge.

The Whigs used squealing, squally guitars because they are the universally recognised instrument of mental turmoil; but underpinned their sound with a warped soul feel, the funk flickers of early disco. Their songs also had an unnerving propensity to explode with tortured guilt and loathing and Dulli's racked, venomous yowl.

For the cover of 1994's *Gentleman*, Afghan Whigs switched to suits, Byrlesque and across-the-board adulation from those wounded in action during the sex wars. Here, finally, was the simple truth delivered with unflinching wit and a sound akin to the first nuclear test.

The new album, *Black Love* — named after an incense sold in American service stations — has all this and more. The disco quota has been upped, leaving us with something that sounds, in places, like *Saturday Night Fever* on heavy drugs.

"Yeah, everyone laughed when I said this was going to be an album you could dance to," Dulli chorles. "I also wrote a couple of love songs. Do you think we'll get sued under the new Trade Descriptions Act? Y'know, people complaining in the shops — 'I bought it because it said Afghan Whigs on the cover, and there's a love song without any stabblings in it. I want my money back. This is disco!'"

Dulli sighs. "Probably not. It's pretty menacing disco, isn't it?" He gathers his breath, and wades back into the fray. "Some people are like, 'Why you gotta make me feel uncomfortable with this music?' Well, it's 'cos I want it. Y'know, I feel uncomfortable, and I don't wanna be alone at my party. And I think it's better you feel uncomfortable with my words and music than you do with some amoral, apathetic songwriter who's just shrugging his shoulders at the whole world; who's become so numbed by the evil in the world he can't pick out targets any more, and just mumbles."

"I'm specific. There is good, and there is evil, and I think you should aspire to being good. It's just... I know what it's like when you slip."

● *Black Love* is out now on Mute Records. Afghan Whigs play Glasgow's Garage (March 19); Manchester's Boardwalk (March 21); Birmingham Foundry (March 21); London LA2 (March 22)

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POSTS

EDUCATION

Head teacher John Young describes how he, his staff and his pupils coped two years ago when an armed intruder entered their school

'We were unprepared for this disaster'

The horrific attack on Dunblane Primary School brought vividly back to us memories of the day in June 1994 when an intruder entered our school hall and turned a home-made flamethrower on students taking A-level exams.

Tables, chairs, papers, jackets, curtains and students were engulfed before the man dropped his weapon and fled. Three students were seriously injured.

Even though what happened to us at Sullivan Upper School in Holywood, Co Down, pales in comparison with the appalling events in Dunblane this week, we know something of the issues and challenges that the community and the school in particular are having to cope with.

Schools have been remarkably free from the violence associated with the conflicts of Northern Ireland. The attack was not related to terrorism. We had no plan of any kind for dealing with an incident of this sort: just the usual arrangements for evacuating the school and dealing with accidents and fires, but nothing more. We

had no disaster plan of any sort. The first thing that I realised, after spending half an hour trying to find out what had happened, was that I needed to stay in one place so that others would know where to find me. Once it was clear that the fire was out and the buildings safe, I returned to my office and remained there for the rest of the day, two brief excursions to speak to the journalists at the gates apart.

The second thing was that, whatever I might feel inside, I needed to appear to be calm and rational to others. There was enough confusion already.

The questions came thick and fast. Could we let the pupils and staff still gathered at the assembly area return to the buildings? Should we go ahead with lunch? Had anyone thought to contact the examination authorities? Should we send the pupils home? Had we managed to make contact with the parents of the injured pupils and what was the condition of the seriously injured? Which hospitals had they gone to? Could we please say something to the journalists at

the gate? Could anxious parents who wanted to take their children home be allowed to do so? What rooms and telephones did we have available for the police to use? What should we say to people telephoning the school for news?

The most important of these questions was the one about closing the school early. Had we done that we would have had about a thousand boys and girls, many of them very young and shocked and distressed, on the streets of the town. They would have had no means of getting home, and their parents would not have known where they were. We had no alternative but to keep going and I am sure that we made the right decision, though it did cause anxiety to some parents.

The police sealed the school and would let no one in without our agreement, but the journalists at the gate were clamouring for information and we realised they would have to have something.

We began to realise too that, although we needed to be careful



John Young: kept calm

about the comments we made, we could perhaps make use of the news media to speak to people who mattered to us, but whom we could not otherwise have reached. Many parents had picked up a garbled and misleading first news report. This was another reason for us to make a statement.

We had some invaluable assistance in dealing with the news media. Two of the partners in a local PR company, both of them parents, quickly contacted us and offered their services without cost.

They provided the school with an indispensable buffer against the journalists. They helped us to decide what to say, how to say it and to whom. But their greatest service was to allow us, once the initial interviews had been done, to divert all subsequent requests for information or statements to their offices.

One question that was persistently raised involved school security. Our consistent response was that, while we would of course review our security arrangements carefully, we were committed to being an open, accessible and approachable institution and that we were determined to remain so.

A senior police officer on the day of the attack made the point to me that, if the police and Army could not make police stations and Army bases in Northern Ireland secure despite all their efforts, there was little chance for a school.

Most of the school had very little

idea at all about what had happened. We made it a priority to prepare a statement for everyone to hear before the end of the day. It offered the simple details, gave as much information about the injured boys as we had and explained the arrangements for school on Monday.

The first day of the next week started with a special briefing for all the teaching staff. We stressed that the overall aim was to have as normal a school day as possible and brought everyone up to date with news about the injured boys.

We then had specially extended registration periods, each form teacher talking about an hour with his or her own group of pupils. Pupils who seemed to be still distressed were to be referred to their year heads and then to the local social services counselling team, if that seemed appropriate. All pupils were given letters to take home to their parents, informing them about the counselling team. This team had a major impact on our capacity to cope.

Dealing with the whole thing was immensely demanding. I operated on what seems to have been undiluted adrenalin for about four days, and I finally conked out on the Wednesday afternoon. From then on I felt flat and listless, waiting to sleep but unable to relax. Many of my colleagues felt the same.

Exhausted though we were, however, we could look back and find some consolations in it all. We could take some pleasure and pride in the way we had worked together in the crisis. I am sure it helped to bond us more closely together as a staff.

Put to a severe test with neither warning nor preparation, we responded in a way that showed that our basic values were sound. I have no doubt that other schools, facing the same challenges, would find the same to be true of them, for the essential strength of our system is that schools are fundamentally committed to the well-being of their pupils.

● This article is adapted from the *Journal of the Secondary Heads Association*.

Why shut out Shakespeare?

The new GCSE English syllabuses will fail to turn our children into literate adults, says Susan Elkin

Teachers of English all over Britain are huddled in little groups, feverishly trying to make some sense of the latest batch of syllabuses for GCSE English and English Literature. At the cost, no doubt, of several square miles of forest, substantial packages — at least one from each of five separate examination boards to every secondary school in the country — dropped heavily through school letterboxes in February.

Once again, the half a million or so 14-year-olds due to embark on their two-year GCSE English courses this autumn will be guinea-pigs. When they take their exams in the summer of 1998 they will have been taught a completely new course. What about Sir Ron Dearing's palliative and much vaunted five-year moratorium on change? Pupils, parents and teachers will be less than reassured to hear that this is merely the implementation of changes imposed last autumn, before the five-year period began.

Are we supposed to see these syllabuses as an improvement? Are they really going to ensure that 16-year-olds are more literate? Will these teenagers be better read? Will they be better able to express themselves accurately, to punctuate properly and to spell?

All five syllabuses are both dense and intense. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA) has set guidelines to which all five boards must adhere. And they have. Their offerings are uniformly studded with unlovely bits of jargon about "forms and genres for specific purposes and effects" and "specific linguistic, structural and presentational features". There is an enormous amount to cover in each one. The extent

to which something so prescriptive can omit or belittle so much that really matters is remarkable.

In practice most pupils take both English and English Literature; many schools teach the two subjects in an integrated way. It is wrong, however, for syllabus compilers to assume that this is universal. More than 150,000 16-year-olds took English only in 1995. What about them? If they had done these new courses they would have found that Shake-

'How something that is so prescriptive can omit or belittle so much that really matters is remarkable'

peare — supposed by most of us to be the cornerstone of English — is "worth" less than 5 per cent of the total marks.

David Davies, subject officer at London Examinations, defends this. "Shakespeare is included as an assessed component for the first time. Before, there was only a requirement that some Shakespeare be read, but now it is a compulsory coursework unit."

The head of English at one school has, pragmatically counselled his department that they cannot afford to "waste" much time and effort on a topic which carries so few marks and he is probably not alone. Perhaps London Examinations' glossy cover collage with Shakespeare uppermost is an ironic joke?

When GCSE began, one of its finest features was that English and English Literature courses accredited candidates' independent reading. In our bright times it was an uphill struggle getting most pupils to read at all. GCSE "wider reading" was an excellent way to sustain the flame of individual reading. Neither did it matter too much what they read: only experienced eclectic readers become critical readers. Foster the compulsive reading habit — much more elusive than it used to be — then you can gradually encourage pupils towards more challenging material.

GCSE used to allow you to spend some teaching time discussing, sharing and promoting "free choice" books. You could justify giving some class time to silent reading of library and other "own" books. Some students got the bug and became "real" readers. That has almost all gone now. Only Northern Examinations and Assessment Board (NEAB) has retained the vestiges.

A spokeswoman for SCAA points out that the "wider" reading is now absorbed into the enlarged required minimum reading content. "If a student has read widely it will show up in the higher quality of their writing," she says.

But learning to read independently, quickly, fluently and critically is not the same as being led painstakingly by a teacher through a set text. It seems that the new GCSE syllabuses are focused so entirely on class study that most 14 to 16-year-olds will read even more narrowly now. Sadly, fewer teenagers will read if they are not actively motivated to do so.

Political correctness has won too. "Diverse cultures and traditions" and similar phrases still abound; and it is

a clear case of the tail wagging the dog. For all sorts of historical reasons, the vast majority of fine literature in English was not written by the small number of writers described by such carefully couched expressions. It is absurdly unbalanced to elevate the work of Derek Walcott, Chinua Achebe, Anita Desai and others — excellent as they are — into a self-contained literary genre at the expense of, say, more Shakespeare, because their collective output is, as yet, relatively small. And I'm not afraid to say that, even if SCAA is.

I have long thought that to be credible and useful GCSE should include a formal language paper to test precision, vocabulary, grammar, punc-

tuation and the like and to force teachers to teach it systematically. Of course it has not happened: another opportunity lost while school leavers go on becoming even less accurate and competent users of English.

It is all very well SCAA's spokeswoman arguing that the rules are so tightly drawn now that candidates simply cannot get the higher grades unless they write grammatically with correct punctuation and spelling. The Basic Skills Agency recently found half the 16 to 24-year-olds in its survey unable to spell "receive" or "apologise". 75 per cent of the same group were unable to insert basic punctuation into a three-

sentence paragraph. It is hardly surprising that Derek Whitcut, director of industry in Education, a body representing 30 major companies, has recently said that industry no longer regards a GCSE English pass as a guarantee of basic literacy. Are we really to believe that these new syllabuses will change that? If I were the parent of a 14-year-old today, I should, in desperation, go out and hire a private tutor — the more venerable and old-fashioned the better — to supplement my child's English teaching and to ensure a secure grasp of what I and any other sensible adult believes a literate person should know. It is no use relying on the new GCSE syllabuses to do it.



Too much emphasis is placed on "diverse cultures" — and not enough on the Bard

The science of curiosity

Iola Smith on an imaginative attempt to break down barriers

Luminescent microbes, cheeseplants and even blades of grass are being used to give pupils a new view of the world in the Darwin Centre in Cardiff.

As part of a nationwide Science Week, which starts today, the centre is linking with Cardiff University, Cardiff Institute of Education and the University of Wales College of Medicine to put science at the forefront of culture.

Professor Tony Campbell, a biochemist from the College of Medicine and the centre's creator, says: "We must eliminate people's hostility to science by firing their curiosity." He has found that many difficult concepts can be introduced to pupils via simple examples.

"Why do we have fingers and not webbed feet? It's the same reason why a cheeseplant has holes. The phenomenon of cell death," he explains. "Similarly, why does grass grow brown in summer? Because of DNA. Understand that, and we are one short step away from understanding the basics of genetics."

During Science Week, pupils in South Wales will experi-

ence the Darwinian approach during a series of projects and events, ranging from talks and exhibitions to a science open day for GCSE and A level.

They will grow dino flagellates, minute micro-organisms that glow in the dark. These creatures introduce the theme of chemiluminescence, a means of illuminating cells which is widely used in medical diagnostics.

By the end of this year, Professor Campbell plans to have an interactive exhibition area at the College of Medicine before moving out to a new building in Cardiff Bay by the turn of the century.

"We want to create a modern equivalent of the Royal Institution for Biology," he says, "and to cover all the big issues — evolution, cellular biology, genetics — and link them to the history of science."

If he can achieve his ambition of creating a science theatre in the building, Professor Campbell will be able to erode the final taboo, that between science and the arts. He wants experts in both to join forces to investigate the science of colour in art and pitch in music.

As Sir Ron Dearing looks into higher education, Lucy Hodges describes the lingering influence of the last inquiry

Stepping out of the Robbins shadow

As soon as Sir Ron Dearing was asked to carry out an inquiry into higher education, the comparisons started with Lord Robbins's landmark report of a third of a century ago. How similar will the Dearing report be?

If Sir Ron follows in the footsteps of his groundbreaking predecessor, he will ensure that his committee is composed of independent people rather than delegates of interested groups, and he will commission masses of research, travel abroad and visit art galleries.

Lord Robbins, the chairman of the National Gallery, was determined not to miss a chance to look at fine art on his committee's peregrinations to Scotland, Wales, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Switzerland and America to examine their systems of higher education. "He was a very distinguished economist," explains Lionel Elvin, the only surviving member of the Robbins committee, now aged 90 and living in Cambridge. "But he had much wider interests — above all, art."

arranged for his members to tour art galleries, including private collections. Professor Elvin, who was director of the London University Institute of Education at the time, remembers particularly a visit to Salomon Reinach's private collection in Switzerland where he was surprised to find a Constable painting entitled *A View of Windsor Castle*.

Sir Ron Dearing has only 15 months, compared with the two-and-a-half years allowed for Lord Robbins to conduct his inquiry, so art may be out of the question. But he has decided to go abroad to see how other countries organise their higher education and he intends to commission research to ensure his conclusions are founded on evidence. He will contract out research, he says.

Lord Robbins hired Sir Claus Moser and Richard Layard, now a professor at the LSE, as his research staff. Professor Layard recalls: "We produced six volumes of research. The report was research-based in a way that has not been true of any government report since."



Lord Robbins: landmark report

thoroughness with which the Robbins committee went about its work. It provided studies of the structure of the teaching profession and of teacher training. Professor Elvin says that Lord Robbins, who was a Professor of Economics at the LSE, developed a completely new interest in teacher training.

with countless appendices and annexes. Professor A.H. Halsey, the eminent educationist at Nuffield College, Oxford, describes it as "a landmark in inquiries of its kind". He adds: "The committee went to other countries and came back with real information."

Lord Robbins's hand is evident in the writing, noticeably in the section on aims and objectives. Only an economist could have been responsible for comments like: "We begin with instruction in skills suitable to play a part in the general division of labour."

Most of the 12 Robbins committee members were drawn from education and only two came from business. Lord Robbins agreed to be chairman if members were individuals and not delegates of interest groups. Sir Ron's group is likely to come from a broader range of activity. Though his members are expected to be appointed as individuals, there will also be some attempt to ensure that no important interest group is left out.

paved the way for expansion of higher education, was not a revolutionary document at all. It more or less approved of the old division — since abolished — between universities and polytechnics. It kept the expensive tutorial systems, high staffing ratios and student residences, as well as the student funding system.

The committee discussed at great length whether or not to recommend student loans as a way to fund an expanding system of higher education, says Professor Elvin. Ethically, it was thought reasonable to say that some of the cost should be paid for in loans. But in the end the committee rejected the idea of loans.

If the Robbins committee were meeting now, Professor Elvin thinks that it would recommend a system of student loans for tuition costs to be levied and for repayments on the Australian model. Many observers believe that this is why Sir Ron's inquiry has been set up — to make palatable to the British public the notion of students paying for some of their tuition. Sir Ron plans to visit

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Calm rerun prevents new cold war

Christopher Irvine on the bloodless sequel to a bitter ice hockey battle

ELBOWING, slashing, tripping, charging, high-sticking. Ice hockey's terminology reads like a mugger's charter. Sometimes the puck is the last thing to be hit, and that explains why Durham Wasps and Humberdale Hawks were back at the Crowtree Leisure Centre in Sunderland on Wednesday night.

At three hours five minutes, the rematch was considerably longer than the 59 seconds the original match lasted. Those who turned up for another fight saw an ice hockey match break out into a brawl. The Hawks' general manager, was pelted, but only by a stray puck. Rather than throats, hands were shaken at the finish, and a sport again attracting unwelcome attention for its violence was extremely grateful.

Events last Saturday, when a pre-game warm-up ended in a large-scale fracas, are still subject to police investigation. As a consequence, Bruce Bell, of the Hawks, was missing some teeth and his nose was a new shape. The game started, but was quickly stopped as police asked to question all 36 players and later arrested Ross Lambert and Jonathan Weaver, of the Wasps. Both are on police bail pending further inquiries.

Reports of a mass brawl were greatly exaggerated, according to Frank Dempster, the British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA) disciplinary chairman. "There was a difference of opinion between three or four players," he said. "Others paired up. That is, they held on to one another and moved about."

Police were also called to Crowtree last December. Lambert was the injured party that time. Nicky Chinn, of the Sheffield Steelers, is due in court this month on a charge of wounding with intent to

cause grievous bodily harm. After the latest incident, Bryn Sildaway, the leader of Sunderland City Council, said he was pleased the Wasps, part of Sir John Hall's Newcastle Sporting Club, did not carry the name of Sunderland. If the team's contract at Crowtree is not renewed next season, it could be homeless, as a planning application for an arena adjacent to Newcastle United's St James' Park ground has been rejected.

Admittedly, combatants in ice hockey do not get padded up to Michelin Man proportions for gentle recreation. High speed and hard contact are the attractions. New supporters are filling state-of-the-art arenas in Sheffield and Manchester. However, with a higher profile comes the need to set an example on matters of discipline, and Bell's misshapen face is not the one that ice hockey would like to present.

Dempster wants coaches to take the initiative, as well as referees and the BIHA. "I'm concerned they are shirking their duties. If you have one player who is spending more time in the penalty box, it's up to the coach to change him," he said.

The Hawks' penalty box was at bursting point for most of the rematch. The space for recording opposition team penalties in the programme was filled long before the end. A game of ice hockey takes an hour. More than 80 penalties meant that players from both sides spent a combined two hours out of the British championship play-off game, which the Wasps won 6-4.

Cordite left over from Saturday lingered in a tempestuous first period, before the tension disappeared. Rather than the police, improved self-policing is seen as the way to deter the sport's troublemakers.

Pedigree chums put their trust in teamwork



FREUD ON FRIDAY

We met at Sandringham by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen. There were the owners with nice, straightforward names such as Darton, Cooper, Ryan and Buntle, all white and of an age and wearing wellies and Barbour and headgear designed not to surprise; they brought 43 dogs, among them Barnavara, Gnot of Birchams, Bringswood of Bede Brook, Juneus Effusus, Deepflet Nile of Dugmore-creek and Hollandside Anastasia; look where you would, not a Fido, an Ognib [Bingo, backwards] or Spot.

I expect you will have guessed that this was a regional heat of the Pedigree Chum Advance Formula Retriever Test, carrying a first prize of £50 with 15 kilos of the sponsor's good product for each of the top five.

I think it proper here to declare an interest. Some 30 years ago I bred a litter of retrievers. If that is the correct term for the offspring of an apricot poodle bitch who extended her favours to a neighbouring retriever.

Any of us with a few hundred acres of land containing lakes, watermeadows, hills, woods, scrub, ha-hats and clumps of rhododendrons could host such a contest, but Sandringham is clearly an ideal site. Moreover, Her Majesty's head keeper organised the event with stunning efficiency.

Each dog, at the behest of his owner, is put through eight tests judged by independent arbiters who conceive what is perfect execution and deduct points for transgressions from the target total. There is a lake: competitor



The retriever test regional trial provides a searching examination for master and faithful friend alike

No 22, Mr F. Chittenden, stands at the vantage point, Stableboy John of Flightwood — a dog-coloured sort of canine — at his feet. The judge assures preparedness on the part of both contestants, gestures to a distant apparatus to fire a dummy into the water, and as the two-legged one says so, his four-legged friend jumps the rail and makes for the bundle which is about the size of a long, legless

Stableboy John, if I may be familiar, seems less than tremendously bright; he swims with nothing more elaborate than a journeyman dog-paddle, should have run around the lake and entered the water from the nearest point on the bank. The judge notes this.

Had he swum freestyle...? I ask. How they swim is

irrelevant, says the judge. It is identification of the dummy and the dedication of the fetch and return that matter. The dog swims back, dummy in his mouth; as he reaches dry land he runs

forward, vaults the fence but just sort of ambles towards his owner, which loses him another point for palpable lack of urgency. In the second test at the same location, the dummy is

fired into a clump of trees; a yellow ribbon is tied to a branch in the vicinity of the landing place. Dogs do not notice yellow ribbons, or perhaps it is that dogs do not look up, rather as some owners do not look down.

Mr Chittenden has a whistle in his mouth: one blast for "move on after taking a quick look at me and noticing in which direction I wave". A number of short blasts denote "come back". I am not sure how helpful it is but owners also shout "back, back, back".

The good retriever marks the landing area of the dummy, fetches it with the minimum of fuss. The test which seems hardest is where the dog hears the shot, sees the dummy but goes down a dip on the fetch, which prevents him from keeping an eye on it

... then tends to need all the whistles and extravagant proprietorial arm movements to be back on course.

I felt badly about entry No 38, not only because my song-sheet stopped at 37, making me ignorant of the names of both man and dog, but also because the retriever found the wrong dummy: the one in the rhododendron bushes which was to be fetched after he had brought back that lodged in the ha-ha.

"Is that curtains for No 38?" Not necessarily said the judge; not if he gets maximum points in the other six tests, but he picks up none here.

As in coursing, the longer the search the more tired they get and the more mistakes they tend to make. It is nearing lunchtime. Bill Meldrum, Her Majesty's head keeper and monarch of all the Norfolk acres that he surveys, does a round of the judges, has a word with each. We stand on the roadside of a pond, beyond which in the hollow I see the branch of a tree bearing a yellow ribbon. Some of the dogs swim across the pond keeping their eye on the target; others run down the steps by the side, come up at the far end and stop, bewildered. The owner whistles and waves. The dog is uncertain, waits. He is working downward, which rules out smell, and to compound this problem there are the rhododendrons. A minute into the fetch we reach total impasse: the dog cannot find the dummy, the handler cannot see the dog. The judge scribbles and waits for something constructive to happen.

Lunch. Now you would have expected the dogs to come into their own, go forth and bring back delicacies. Not a bit of it. We go to a cafeteria and leave Lady Ferner of Blackthorn, Mistique Prince and Dargaffyn Dynamo sitting in cages in the backs of their owners' estate cars thinking about Pedigree Chum. The top five in the regional trial go to the final at Blenheim Palace next month: the Duke of Marlborough has given his gracious permission.

House of Lords

Companies must be UK resident

ICI plc v Colmer (Inspector of Taxes)

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Nolan and Lord Nichols of Birkenhead

[Speeches March 14] "Companies", in the definition of "holding company" in section 288(1)(b) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970, meant, by virtue of subsection (7), companies resident in the United Kingdom.

The question whether that construction conflicted with provisions of European Community law directed against restrictions on freedom of establishment should be referred to the European Court of Justice.

The House of Lords so held on an appeal by the Crown from the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Smith and Lord Justice Evans) (The Times August 11, 1993; 1993 4 All ER 708), which dismissed its appeal from Mr Justice Millett (The Times December 20, 1991; 1992 5 STC 51). The judge had allowed an appeal by ICI plc by case stated from a special commissioner, Mr D. C. Potter, QC, who had dismissed ICI's appeal from the refusal of the inspector of taxes, Mr Kenneth Hall Colmer, of its claims to consortium group relief under sections 258 to 264 of the 1970 Act.

Section 258 of the 1970 Act provides: "(5) For the purpose of this section and the following sections of this Chapter... (b) 'holding company' means a company the business of which consists wholly or mainly in the holding of shares or securities of companies which are its 90 per cent subsidiary companies and which are trading companies..."

(7) References in this and the following sections of this Chapter to a company apply only to bodies corporate resident in the United Kingdom."

Mr Alan Moses, QC and Mr Robin Singh for the Crown; Mr Peter Whitham, QC and Mr Christopher Valda for ICI.

LORD NOLAN said that the Wellcome Foundation Ltd owned 51 per cent and ICI 49 per cent of the issued shares of Coopers

Animal Health (Holdings) Ltd (CAHH) which carried on no business save that of holding shares in 23 subsidiary companies trading in many parts of the world. Four of them were resident in the United Kingdom, six in other member states of the European Union and the remaining 13 outside the Union.

One of the United Kingdom companies was Coopers Animal Health Ltd (CAHL), which incurred substantial trading losses in carrying on its United Kingdom trade in accounting periods ending in 1985, 1986 and 1987.

The question was whether ICI was entitled to consortium group relief from corporation tax in respect of those losses. CAHH being, in the terms of section 258(1)(b) of the 1970 Act, owned by a consortium consisting of ICI and the Wellcome Foundation.

It was common ground that ICI must succeed if CAHH was a holding company as defined by section 258(1)(b) of the 1970 Act. The Crown contended that it was not because of the opening words of subsection (7). It submitted that, as a result of those words, any reference to a company or companies in the relevant sections had to be read as applying only to a company or companies resident in the United Kingdom.

On that basis, although CAHH itself, together with ICI, the Wellcome Foundation and CAHL, was resident in the United Kingdom, it did not fall within section 258(1)(b) because 19 of its 23 subsidiary companies were resident outside the United Kingdom and, therefore, its business could not be said to consist wholly or mainly in the holding of shares or securities of United Kingdom resident companies.

ICI submitted that the Crown's contentions conflicted with the provisions of the Act both when read by themselves and also when construed in accordance with Community law.

The evident purpose of section 258(1) was to enable a parent company and its 75 per cent subsidiary to be treated as a single entity for tax purposes, merging the profits and losses of individual members of the group in order to arrive at the taxable profit, if any.

Mr Justice Brooke said that in the Queen's Bench Division on February 8 when making a declaration on an application by Michael Golding for judicial review of a series of decisions by the secretary of state to recover monies, allegedly overpaid by way of mortgage interest, as an element of income support.

HIS LORDSHIP said that since August 1992 Mr Golding's mortgage interest element of income support had been paid direct to his building society. In 1994

The extension of the concept of group relief to a consortium of companies under section 258(2) was "presumably" intended to encourage and facilitate the merger of a number of different corporate interests in a single company enterprise.

Both ordinary group relief under section 258(1) and consortium group relief under section 258(2) produced the result that the claimant and surrendering company (ICI and CAHL) might merge their profits and losses for United Kingdom tax purposes at least to the extent of the equity participation, direct or indirect, of the one in the other and sometimes to a somewhat greater extent.

But that could only be done if they were both resident in the United Kingdom because the opening words of section 258(7) made it plain that sections 258 and 259 only applied to such bodies. That had the effect of ruling out a claim by a body corporate that, although trading in the United Kingdom and therefore liable to United Kingdom tax, was not a United Kingdom resident.

Did the opening words of subsection (7) have any wider effect? The Crown contended that, on their plain meaning, they had the effect of qualifying every reference to a company, or companies, in section 258 and the following sections.

It followed that that qualification applied to the companies that were deemed to be members of a group under subsection (5)(a), to each of the companies that formed a consortium within the meaning of subsections (2) and (6) and to the holding company and the 90 per cent subsidiary trading companies in the holding of whose shares its business wholly or mainly consisted as described in subsection (5)(b).

The Crown's construction of subsection (5)(b) might give rise to practical difficulties. For example, what if CAHH's subsidiaries had been more evenly balanced between resident and non-resident say eight of each? Mr Moses acknowledged that mere numbers could not be decisive, as to "wholly or mainly", and that other factors, such as turnover, might have to be taken into account.

But there remained the difficulty reflected the fact that the mortgage interest rate had changed in the period after July 1992, but that fact was not reflected in the quantum of benefit being paid direct to the lender.

Mr Golding submitted that paragraph 31 only permitted recovery of sums that, at the moment of payment, in the present case between 1992 and 1994, did not properly reflect the terms of a valid award. Sums paid within the terms of an award could only be recovered by section 71 of the Social

Law Report March 15 1996

Interest in trust property

Begg-McBrearty (Inspector of Taxes) v Stilwell

Before Mr Justice Knox [Judgment March 6]

To ascertain for capital gains tax purposes the consequences of the provisions of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 reducing the age of majority from 21 to 18 as from January 1, 1970, an interest in trust property created by the exercise of a special power of appointment contained in a discretionary settlement was "an interest under an instrument made before" January 1, 1970, in circumstances where the settlement was executed before that date and the appointment after it.

Mr Justice Knox so held in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the Crown from a determination of Mr D. A. Shirley, a special commissioner, relating to a capital gains tax assessment of £98,650 for 1990-91 raised on Mr I. R. S. Stilwell as a trustee of a discretionary settlement dated February 1959 made by Mr Gerald Edward Cole for the benefit of his children and grandchildren.

In 1975 the trustees of the settlement, exercising their special power of appointment in favour of the settlor's three grandchildren, by deed of revocation and new appointment thereafter held the trust fund for them contingently on attaining 21. Section 31 of the Trustee Act 1925 was to apply to the appointment.

On attaining the age of 21 in 1990

the eldest grandchild became absolutely entitled as against the trustees to a one-third share of the settled property. The trustees elected to hold over the chargeable gain arising on that event by virtue of section 54 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 to be held over under section 147A of the 1979 Act, inserted by section 124(2), (3) and paragraph 4 of Schedule 14 to the Finance Act 1989.

That claim was rejected by the Revenue on the ground that pursuant to section 31 of the Trustee Act 1925, as amended by the Family Law Reform Act 1969, the grandchild had become entitled to an interest in possession in her one-third share on reaching the age of 18.

Section 147A of the 1979 Act permitted in certain circumstances the trustee and the beneficiary to elect to hold over the chargeable gain. Section 147A(2)(d) allowed that relief on a person becoming absolutely entitled to assets on the termination of an accumulation and maintenance trust in their favour.

Section 31 of the Trustee Act 1925 made provision for "accumulation and maintenance trusts" of income payable in respect of a contingent interest in capital during the infancy of a beneficiary.

Section 1 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 reduced the age of majority from 21 to 18 with effect from January 1, 1970.

But by paragraph 5(1)(a) of

Schedule 3 to the 1969 Act, section 1 "shall not affect section 31 of the Trustee Act 1925 — (a) in its application to any interest under an instrument made before the commencement date..."

Mr Michael Furness for the Crown; the trustee did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that the question was whether in such a case when a settlement, made before the 1969 Act came into force, created a special power of appointment that was exercised after that Act came into force and the trusts appointed by the appointment incorporated the provisions of section 31 of the Trustee Act 1925, those trusts were affected by the change in the law reducing the age of majority so as to confer a vested interest in income on majority at 18 or whether, as the taxpayer had successfully contended before the commissioner, under the original trusts under which majority was only attained at the age of 21 years.

The critical issue, that turned on the construction of paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 3 to the 1969 Act, was whether the beneficiary's interest in one-third of the appointed fund contingently on attaining 21 was an interest under the settlement or an interest under the appointment.

The wording of paragraph 5(1)(a) was elliptical in that there was no verb connecting "interest" and "under an instrument" although one had to be supplied to obtain

the full force of the provision. The most likely verbs that could grammatically be supplied were "arising" or "existing".

The common sense approach to the problem pointed to the appointment being the relevant instrument. Before the appointment the beneficiary had no relevant interest to which section 31 of the 1925 Act could attach.

She was entitled immediately before the appointment to a revocable interest but it was revoked and she was an object of the power of appointment but section 31 could not attach to that even if it was properly describable as an "interest". The immediate cause of the existence of her relevant interest was the appointment. Under the settlement alone she had no relevant interest.

True it was that without the settlement the appointment could not have been made and that to that extent her interest was under the settlement but of the two instruments it was the appointment under which the beneficiary's interest arose and to which it directly owed its existence.

The authorities did not detract from that view and in *Re Dickinson's Settlement* (1938) 2 Ch 27 and *In re de Bore's Marriage Settlement* (1941) Ch 443 lent support to it. The special commissioner had come to the wrong conclusion and the appeal was allowed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Power to make interim award of damages

Chiron Corporation and Others v Murex Diagnostics Ltd (No 11)

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker [Judgment February 16]

The court could make a substantial interim award of damages, although difficult points of law and evidence issues of fact might be outstanding, provided there was evidence establishing, with reasonable certainty, the minimum sum likely to be recoverable.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division, on a summons under Order 29, rules 10 and 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court when ordering the defendant, Murex Diagnostics Ltd, to make an interim payment of £6 million to the plaintiffs, Chiron Corporation, Ortho Diagnostic Systems Inc and Ortho Diagnostic Systems Ltd, on account of its liability to them in two actions wherein inquiries, estimated to last 16 days, as to damages were due to be heard in July 1996.

Mr Peter Scott, QC and Mr Richard Meade for the plaintiffs; Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr Richard Hacon for Murex.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that although Murex had made an open offer to pay interim damages of £2.7 million,

application to dismiss the plaintiffs' application as inappropriate, if not abusive, citing the observations of Lord Justice Neill in *Schön-Kem v Bentley* (1991) 1 QB 61, 73, that "interim payment procedures are not suitable where the factual issues are complicated or where difficult points of law arise which may take many hours and the citation of many authorities to resolve."

But his Lordship heard the plaintiffs' application because: 1 Judgment in those inquiries, which in December 1994 Mr Justice Aldous had said should come on as quickly as possible, was unlikely to be given for another eight months; 2 Two days of court time did not seem extravagant for an application to be paid £7 million; 3 Murex had offered £2.7 million; 4 The plaintiffs recognised that large parts of their claim could not be considered on this application; 5 Much light had been shed by the wealth of previous reported decisions in this very litigation, namely *Chiron v Murex* (No 1) (1992) FSR 512; (No 2) (1992) FSR 324; (No 3) (1994) FSR 187, CA; (No 3) (1994) FSR 302; (No 3) (1994) FSR 258; (No 6) (1994) FSR 448; (No 7) (1994) FSR 538; (No 8) (1995) FSR 309 and (No 10) (1995) FSR 325.

After examining the evidence and arguments advanced on each side as to comparable royalty agreements, and noting that Murex's pleaded points included, but were not limited to, points on articles 85 and 86 of the EC Treaty, his Lordship concluded that he must assume that Murex might succeed in making good its criticisms of the two royalty agreements on which the plaintiffs relied, but without wholly disregarding them.

The other comparable factor, relied on by Murex, was the level of royalties fixed by the Comptroller of Patents under section 46 of the Patents Act 1977. His Lordship had come to the conclusion that, for present purposes, he should regard licences of right for important pharmaceutical patents,

required lengthy and expensive research, as the best comparable that he was going to find. A rate of 30 per cent was comfortably within the range on which both sides had agreed for such patents and was the figure he would adopt in quantifying what damages were likely to be awarded.

His Lordship had heard submissions about what weight he should attach to an open offer by Murex to pay £2.7 million during the hearing of *Chiron v Murex* (No 10) on November 29, 1994, the £2.7 million open offer made shortly before the instant hearing and to the £8 million provision for the plaintiffs' claim made in Murex's latest audited accounts but, confining himself to the evidence, he had come to the conclusion that the plaintiffs were likely to recover damages, under the national reasonable royalty head, of about £6.3 million, £6 million of which he would order Murex to pay now.

Solicitors: Bristow Cooke & Carmichael; Hammond Suddards.

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Correction

In *Westminster City Council v Haywood and Another* (The Times March 12), the junior counsel for the Pensioners Ombudsman was Mr

Cotton warns of threat posed by clubs' self-interest

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE Will Carling prepared to lead England into an international for the last time, against Ireland at the triple crown at Twickenham tomorrow, one of his predecessors warned that sectional interest could dilute England's strength in years to come.

Fran Cotton led England only three times in 1975 compared with Carling's present record of 58, but as chairman of the Northern Division, he has achieved a position of considerable influence. The North, whose achievements have always been greatest as a collective rather than as individual clubs, fear that the interests of the national side may be lost in the pursuit of overseas talent.

Cotton sees a parallel between rugby union today and county cricket 20 years ago. "Cricket's policy then is now coming home to roost," he said. "We need to be aware that the way our game is

moving at senior club level in this new open era could well lead us to the same end product.

"Present trends are totally driven by self-interest. What is best for the England side does not come into the equation and I'm sure that if we do not safeguard England's interests, we will pay a heavy price. After all, the funding and structure of the game has not been resolved yet, but already we are seeing a cascade of players who are not qualified for England coming into national league clubs and taking key positions. Where do our up-and-coming players learn their trade? It's crazy."

Cotton, champion of the divisional system as a testing ground for players, coaches and selectors, is in conflict here with his former front-row colleague, Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, who has been leading the drive for self-determination for the clubs.

Pointedly, Cotton refers to a "cascading of three or four clubs who are pushing things through with no other objective than total self-interest."

England's management will sympathise with his views and will be keenly aware that if the northern hemisphere is to remain among the leaders of world affairs, a strong England team is a prerequisite. Indeed, two instructive building blocks were added to the representative coaching tier with the appointment yesterday of Clive Woodward to the England Under-21 team, with Andy Robinson, of Bath, as his assistant.

Woodward played with both Cotton and Wheeler before acquiring a reputation as coach to London Irish as a free-thinker, keen to liberate the three-quarter play. In that respect, Carling will concur, since he too hopes that his final match as captain will offer the chance of a more expansive game, than that which best Scotland.

As relaxed as he has ever been, despite the extensive interest in his private life, which brought a swarm of news reporters to the England press conference yesterday — the only royal presence tomorrow will be that of Prince Edward, and the journalists departed unsatisfied — Carling and his pack leader, Dean Richards, emphasised there was first a game to be won against respected opponents.

"Afterwards, I'll be quite emotional because the captaincy has been an amazing part of my life — indeed, it has been my life for eight years — but I haven't had a problem concentrating on rugby all season," Carling said.

"I see this as a chance for England to do themselves justice at Twickenham this year. We haven't quite done that at home. We have a chance of the triple crown, an outside chance of the [five nations] championship, but all you can do is concentrate on the process of scoring points and winning the match."



Bruno, right, Britain's modern-day heavyweight champion, confronts Mike Tyson, his challenger, in Las Vegas yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Land where legend of prize fight lingers

As one Briton prepares for his world title showdown, David Miller visits the scene of a brutal triumph by another 99 years ago

Dive north from Las Vegas, through 400 interminable miles of the Nevada desert, past the salt-dry wastes of the atomic testing area, and you come to the old Wild West, to the land of uninhabited gun law that expelled the indigenous Navajo Indians and others.

And to the land of the prize fight. Nothing could have been more symptomatic of gold speculation, of casino gambling and frontier opportunism, than the drama of the ring, with all its Carmen overtones of wild, wild, women. It was here, 99 years ago this Sunday, that Bob Fitzsimmons became Britain's first world heavyweight champion when beating Gentleman Jim Corbett in the fourteenth round.

It was an extraordinary era, regarded in its time as no less grotesque than the extremes of Vegas today. As you climb the 4,000 feet near the Montezuma Peak you arrive at Goldfield, today a ghost town of near derelict mines, crumbling casinos and abandoned wooden saloons. The most conspicuous remaining edifice is the brick-built court-house.

In 1906, Joe Gans, the world lightweight champion, fought Battling Nelson at remote Goldfield over 42 rounds, promoted by Tex Rickard, a saloon owner. There was a crowd of 8,000 generating receipts of £72,000. Nelson was disqualified for a disgraceful foul. Today, the most exciting

prospect is a slightly forlorn store advertisement: "Guns and Jewellery".

Next stop is Tonopah — "Guns and Beauty Salon" — where Jack Dempsey was a regular fighter. Then on to Gardnerville, just south of Carson, another fight venue where you will find on Main Street Sharkey's Casino which, as a hobby of the Serbian owner, houses a bewildering range of boxing and other memorabilia.

Milos Begovic, now 71, was the son of Yugoslav immigrants, adopted the name of a celebrated American ring champion and, besides part-time boxing promotion, has spent millions from casino profits assembling a collection that includes the gloves worn by Jim Jeffries when relieving Fitzsimmons of his title in 1899.

Other priceless pieces are Roy Rogers's first saddle, Buffalo Bill's personal passport holder when visiting Europe, a poster from Abraham Lincoln's presidential campaign, and oil paintings of more than a hundred famous Indian leaders of Apache, Cherokee, Sioux, Comanche, Cheyenne and Navajo tribes.

At Carson, state history marker

No 243 records the site of America's first specially-created open air ring for that Fitzsimmons bout. Farmers arrived by wagon, and trains from California unloaded revelers who swelled the crowd to 20,000 for Nevada's first world championship bout, in the new Queensbury Rules era of gloved prize fights. There was scathing criticism from the pulpits of neighbouring states, but the memorial plaque claims that the bout "showed boxing need not be brutal and cruel". Doubts, however, remain.

Fitzsimmons was born in 1862 in Cornwall. His parents emigrated when he was nine to New Zealand, where he became, in his teens, an accomplished fighter. Traveling to California to seek his fortune, he made his name initially as a middleweight.

Corbett had taken the heavyweight title from the celebrated John L. Sullivan, a national hero, in 1892 over 21 rounds, Sullivan finally collapsing from exhaustion. The subsequent meeting with Fitzsimmons in Carson introduced a new note in pugilistic

ballyhoo, being the first recorded by motion picture. Fitzsimmons, becoming Britain's only heavyweight champion until Lennox Lewis in 1992, was at first outclassed by Corbett's long-range jabbing, bleeding profusely from nose and mouth. But, from the eighth round, Fitzsimmons, continually delivered crushing blows to Corbett's body. Forcing Corbett to raise his guard by a sequence of fearsome right hands, Fitzsimmons's winning punches were a stunning right to the heart followed by a left to the midriff.

Bob Davies, the *New York Journal* writer, was the first to describe this last target as the "solar plexus" blow. The *Morning Journal* of Nevada, under the front-page headline "Fitzsimmons in fourteen rounds", reported that he landed his famous hook on Corbett.

According to the *Appeal*, his reporter, visiting Corbett's camp that morning, discovered the champion fast asleep and snoring. His father, who managed his affairs, was seemingly not in the slightest doubt about his son's victory.

Fitzsimmons, like Frank Bruno, exploited his fame by joining a touring theatre group, but, becoming unfit, lost his title two years later to Jeffries. He continued fighting, with over 300 bouts, until his middle fifties. "Bounty Bob", as he became known, died shortly before going on stage, aged 57, for a theatrical show in Chicago.

Melrose struggle to keep leading players

By MARK SOUSTER

MELROSE, the Scottish rugby union champions confirmed yesterday that official approaches had been made by English first division clubs for three more of their international players — Bryan Redpath, Craig Chalmers and Craig Joiner — while Graham Shield is still considering a move to either Leicester or Newcastle.

Redpath, one of Scotland's best players in the five nations' championship, is a target for Saracens, who want him to link with Michael Lynagh at half back. Redpath met officials from the north London club on Wednesday and is having further talks with Melrose this weekend.

Joiner, 22, a chemical engineering student in Edinburgh, is sorely tempted by Rob Andrew's offer of a three-year contract worth £120,000

and could switch to Newcastle University to complete the remainder of his course. Chalmers, who has many admirers in England, is being linked with a London club, possibly Wasps.

However, Melrose are refusing to accept the inevitable and have ambitious recruitment plans of their own, with up to six Scotland internationals on their shopping list, including Stewart Campbell, the Dundee High lock forward, and Tony Stanger, of Hawick. Nevertheless, their hopes of luring players of that calibre depend on keeping existing leading players at the club.

Members of Boroughmuir were last night voting on whether to accept a £250,000 offer by Jim Glass, an Edinburgh property developer, for partial control of the club.

FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION

International

England v Ireland (at Richmond, 3.0)

Wales v France (at Newport, 3.0)

Student internationals

England v Ireland (at Millfield, Oxford, 6.30)

Wales v France (at Aberavon, 7.0)

Club matches

Cardiff v Bridgend (7.30)

Cheltenham v Worcester (7.0)

Clifton v Llanelli (7.30)

Coventry v Harlequins (7.30)

Cross Keys v Aberystwyth (7.0)

Durham v Llanelli (7.0)

Glamorgan v Newport (7.0)

Gloucestershire v Cardiff (7.0)

Kent v Bath (7.0)

Leamington v Plymouth (7.0)

London Irish v Gwent (7.30)

London Welsh v Newport (7.0)

Worcestershire v Worcester (7.0)

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BADMINTON

International

England v Ireland (at Richmond, 3.0)

Wales v France (at Newport, 3.0)

Student internationals

England v Ireland (at Millfield, Oxford, 6.30)

Wales v France (at Aberavon, 7.0)

Club matches

Cardiff v Bridgend (7.30)

Cheltenham v Worcester (7.0)

Clifton v Llanelli (7.30)

Coventry v Harlequins (7.30)

Cross Keys v Aberystwyth (7.0)

Durham v Llanelli (7.0)

Glamorgan v Newport (7.0)

Gloucestershire v Cardiff (7.0)

Kent v Bath (7.0)

Leamington v Plymouth (7.0)

London Irish v Gwent (7.30)

London Welsh v Newport (7.0)

Worcestershire v Worcester (7.0)

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FOR THE RECORD

ENGLISH INSURANCE LEAGUE: First division: Leicester 0, Ipswich 2.

WORLD CUP STANDINGS: 1. Denmark 28pts; 2. Hungary 18pts; 3. P. A. Carrara 10; 4. V. A. Carrara 10; 5. G. Carrara 10; 6. P. Carrara 10; 7. V. Carrara 10; 8. G. Carrara 10; 9. P. Carrara 10; 10. V. Carrara 10.

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Hall finds reason to be cheerful despite his defeat

By RICHARD EATON

DARREN HALL, the England No.1, was disappointed by his 15-10, 15-10 defeat to Heryanto Arbi, the world champion, in the last 16 of the Yonex All-England badminton championships at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, yesterday, but encouraged by his prospects of becoming the first British player to win an Olympic medal in July.

Hall's was a staccato performance, lacking in the confidence and fluidity that have brought him his best run of form since he won the Danish Open three years ago, but he talked a good press conference, pointing out that reaching his seeding position here should gain him a place among the 16 seeds at the Games in Atlanta.

"If I get one it will help a lot and I really believe I can challenge for a medal," the former European champion, 30, said. "I could have done better today and I'm a bit frustrated now because I know I wasn't relaxed, but I have been more like my old self recently."

Hall's best moments came when it was almost too late, with recoveries from 4-10 to 9-11 in the first game and from 6-13 to 10-13 in the second. He produced some tight net shots and deceptive cross-court smashes, but Arbi.

Results 40 who is trying to win his third title in four years, was too quick and penetrating. Britain's best hope for an Olympic medal, Julie Bradbury, reached two quarter-finals. She and Joanne Wright efficiently disposed of the Mizui sisters, Hisako and Yasuko, 15-0, 15-7 in the women's doubles, while Bradbury and Simon Archer survived a difficult first game against Thomas Stavngaard and Ann Jorgensen, of Denmark, to win 15-13, 15-4 in the mixed doubles.

There was the third big upset in two days with the defeat of the Olympic champion, Allan Budi Kusuma, of Indonesia, On the opening day, the top-seeded World Grand Prix title-holder, Joko Suprianto, and the former world silver medal-winner, Heryanto Susanto, both went out, and Kusuma followed them when he lost 8-15, 15-17, 15-13 to his former compatriot, Fung Permadi, now of Taiwan.

Kusuma had two match points in the second game, but complained of a lack of confidence and his defeat gives Ardy Wiranata, also of Indonesia, the chance to prevent him from qualifying for the Olympics.

West Indies lose their way in another dramatic semi-final



Lara cuts on his way to 45 yesterday. It was to no avail, Australia winning by five runs. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

India weighs up price of fame

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN CALCUTTA

AS INDIA awoke yesterday with sore heads and shamed faces, the blame for the riot which curtailed the World Cup semi-final in Calcutta on Wednesday was being liberally apportioned. Only those whose brains remained addled continued to hold Mohammad Azharuddin and his besieged India team responsible.

The angst being felt here is deep and genuine. "Nation hangs its head in shame" was the front page headline in the Calcutta Telegraph newspaper, and a comment column below stated sadly: "The barbarians have captured the nation." Elsewhere, however, Azharuddin stood accused of an over-glamorous lifestyle and even of throwing the match. In these fanciful observations lies the root of India's cricket conflict.

Here, more than anywhere in the world, the game and its players are mere rabbits in the searchlights of two corrupting influences — gambling and advertising. How much each individual might be involved in one or other activity has ceased to be the issue. It is the popular perception that counts and it is an increasingly destructive one.

Betting is a festering sore on cricket in the sub-continent. The unproven Australian allegations against Salim Malik, the Pakistani, simply brought the dangers into the public domain. In truth, thanks to the network of Bombay bookmakers and the lengths to which they will go in search of the most reliable "information" — a betting euphemism for a pre-arranged certainty — cricketers in India and Pakistan have long been targets for the taking and offering of bribes. It will never be known how many have succumbed.

The Salim affair has alerted the cricket-watching masses and it has made them mightily cynical, so that whenever their team loses unexpectedly, the knee-jerk reaction is that somebody has been bribed. Usually, it is the captain who stands accused and, within the past few days, both Wasim

any who are caught. The public must see that such measures are effective.

Advertising is a less blatant corruption but its influence over the cricketers of India is undeniable. The leading players here, such as Azharuddin and Sachin Tendulkar, command vast sums of money for television commercials. India has turned its cricketers into demi-gods and an impressionable public cannot tolerate their failure.

These, of course, can only be reasons for the riot; they can never be excuses. India, in its embarrassment, yesterday admitted that much. Amid the harrowing accounts of buses being stoned outside the stadium and riot police charging a mob in the city at midnight, was a sombre paragraph of self-flagellation. "India," the Telegraph said, "has succeeded in establishing that it deserves to be re-examined from the world of cricket."

Naturally, the ICC will not take such drastic action on Monday, but the riot will be high on its agenda. There will be calls for the ICC to take a more active role in future tournaments, but this is a stable-door philosophy, too late to matter in the here and now.

There must also be a debate about the other failings of the competition, such as the cavalier treatment of umpires and their payments. But at least in this arena England has achieved recognition. David Shepherd is to be one of the umpires in the final on Sunday and the match referee will be the former chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, Raman Subba Row.

Sri Lanka, meanwhile, flew into Lahore last night as the most uncelebrated of all World Cup finalists. Which is exactly how they like it. Quietly, they have set themselves an agenda to be the leading cricket nation by 2000. A month ago, this would have seemed risible. Nobody is laughing now, least of all the Indians.



Akram and Azharuddin have had their lives and reputations unfairly tarnished by these hysterical demanding explanations for defeat that mere form and tactics cannot satisfy.

The problem will grow, so it is time the International Cricket Council (ICC) flexed communal muscle on the subject. It meets on Monday and there is urgent need for the reinforcement of legislation against cricketers involved in gambling and the provision of an automatic lifetime ban for

Simon Wilde's
WORLD
CUP
EXTRAS

Nor will any of Sri Lanka's stars be seen in cricket this summer. The 18 counties have signed their overseas players, and they consist of eight West Indians, five Australians, three South Africans and two New Zealanders.

Still around
If Sri Lanka win the World Cup, it will represent a particular triumph for Arjuna Ranatunga, their circumferentially-challenged captain. Two years ago, the Sri Lanka board tried to change him and his team, who were losing consistently.

An inquiry deemed several senior players overweight, and Aravinda de Silva was stripped of the vice-captaincy. He and four others were barred from touring until they improved their fitness. It was only after Ranatunga resigned

the captaincy in protest that the fitness targets were dropped and the heavyweights reinstated.

Final rush
A chartered Air Lanka flight is being arranged to fly 270 dignitaries and supporters from Colombo to the final. There is a tremendous rush for tickets, a travel agent said. The plane leaves early on Sunday and returns in less than 24 hours. Passengers include Sumanawera Disanayake, the Sri Lanka sports minister.

Whitaker to fence three and finished just over a second inside his time. Despite Grannusch's impressive performance, Whitaker intends to ride his European team silver medal-winning partner, Welham, in the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Sunday, the main event of this four-day meeting.

Grannusch, whose numerous grand prix successes included Calgary and Wembley in 1994 — a year in which he won £250,000 in prize-money — is now 17 riders — including his younger brother, Michael, on Cylaire — as they tried in vain to match his time.

But Fuchs, a former Swiss national champion, is never one to settle for second place. Going last but one on the eighth-year-old Rendick, a horse he describes as "very careful but sometimes a little bit chicken", he took the same short cut as

MARKUS FUCHS, of Switzerland, foiled an opening-day win for the British rider, John Whitaker, and Grannusch, at the Volvo World Cup meeting here when he and Interpane Rendick won the Indoor Brabant Prize by 1.07sec.

Whitaker, who was drawn first in the 22-horse jump-off, held a commanding lead for most of the competition. Grannusch was one of only three horses to make a time-saving short cut into fence three. Whitaker then watched the next 19 riders — including his younger brother, Michael, on Cylaire — as they tried in vain to match his time.

But Fuchs, a former Swiss national champion, is never one to settle for second place. Going last but one on the eighth-year-old Rendick, a horse he describes as "very careful but sometimes a little bit chicken", he took the same short cut as

Geoff Billington's Olympic Games contender, It's Otto, returning to competition after a six-month absence through injury, produced a stylish opening clear round, but dropped out of contention in the jump-off when he hit the second fence

and also incurred seven time faults. The qualifier on Sunday will be the first important test for the ten-year-old gelding on the road to the Games in Atlanta.

Nick Skelton on Tinka's Boy and Di Lampard on Abberval Dream, the two other Britons in the class, had eight and four faults respectively. While Skelton automatically qualifies for the World Cup final in Geneva next month as the holder, Lampard needs a good performance on Sunday to secure her place.

The former Queen Elizabeth II Cup-winner made a superb start to the World Cup season, finishing second in the Helsinki qualifier and third in Oslo last autumn, and is now lying in 22nd place in the Western European League, from which the top 19 qualify.

RESULTS: Indoor Brabant Prize, 1. Interpane Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 2. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 3. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 4. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 5. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 6. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 7. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 8. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 9. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 10. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 11. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 12. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 13. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 14. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 15. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 16. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 17. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 18. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 19. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 20. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 21. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 22. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 23. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 24. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 25. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 26. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 27. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 28. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 29. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 30. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 31. Rendick, M Fuchs, 2.07.30; 32. 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